

Afghan soldier kills U.S. general, wounds 15

ROBERT BURNS
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Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An American major general was shot to death Tuesday in one of the bloodiest insider attacks of the long Afghanistan war when a gunman dressed as an Afghan soldier turned on allied troops, wounding about 15 including a German general and two Afghan generals. The Army identified the American officer as Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, a 34-year veteran. An engineer by training, Greene was on his first deployment to a war zone and was involved in preparing Afghan forces for the time when U.S.-coalition troops leave at the end of this year. He was the deputy commanding general, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. Greene was the highest-ranked American officer killed in combat in the nation's post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the highest-ranked officer killed in combat since 1970 in the Vietnam War.

Five major generals were killed in Vietnam, the last Maj. Gen. John Albert Dillard, whose helicopter was shot down. The attack at Marshal Fahim National Defense University underscored the tensions that persist as the U.S. combat role winds down in Afghanistan — and it wasn't the only assault by an Afghan ally on coalition forces on Tuesday. In eastern Paktia province, an Afghan police guard exchanged fire with NATO troops near the governor's office, provincial police said.

Continued on Page 2



Police guard the scene of a traffic accident involving two double-decker tour buses in New York City's Theater District, Tuesday Aug. 5, 2014. Associated Press

14 hurt in NYC Times Square bus crash

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A traffic accident involving two double-decker tour buses in the city's Times Square Theater District on Tuesday afternoon sent shattered glass flying and injured 14 people, three of them seriously. None of the injuries was believed to be life-threatening, the Fire Department of New York said. Tourist Cara McCaskill, of Winnipeg, Canada, saw

the scene of the accident moments after it happened as she walked out of her hotel. "I saw fire trucks trying to get through all the crazy traffic," the 16-year-old said. "And I saw ambulances and blood on the ground."

The accident occurred around 47th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, an area of Times Square usually teeming with tourists near a TKTS discount Broadway tickets

booth and the Hershey's Chocolate World store. It shut down a stretch of Seventh Avenue.

At least eight people, including several bus passengers, were treated at the scene, city officials said. One of the buses crashed into a light pole, causing it to topple, witnesses said. The glass in the front of the bus was shattered, and glass was strewn on the pavement.

Bystanders said the scene

was initially chaotic, with people running around trying to help.

Rose Cantillon was visiting the city from Ireland and was nearby.

"I was sitting on a bench, and I turned around and heard screaming, and I ran," she said.

Telephone calls seeking comment from Gray Line and the other tour bus company, CitySights, weren't immediately returned Tuesday. □

U.S. GENERAL

Continued from Front

The guard was killed in the gunfight.

It wasn't clear if the two incidents were linked, and police said they were investigating.

Early indications suggested the Afghan gunman who killed the American general was inside a building and fired indiscriminately from a window at the people gathered outside, the U.S. official said. There was no indication that Greene was specifically targeted, said a U.S. official. The official was not authorized to speak publicly by name about the incident and provided the information only on condition of anonymity.

The wounded included a German brigadier general and two Afghan generals, officials said. One of the officials said that of the estimated 15 wounded, about

end of the year.

The Army's chief of staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, issued a written statement Tuesday evening expressing condolences to Greene's family and the families of the others injured in the attack.

"These soldiers were professionals, committed to the mission," Odierno said. "It is their service and sacrifice that define us as an army. Our priority right now is to take care of the families, ensuring they have all the resources they need during this critical time."

"We remain committed to our mission in Afghanistan and will continue to work with our Afghan partners to ensure the safety and security of all coalition soldiers and civilians," he added.

The Iraq and Afghanistan wars have taken more than 6,700 U.S. lives.

Insider attacks rose sharply in 2012, with more than 60 coalition troops — mostly Americans — killed in 40-

retary Chuck Hagel both spoke with Gen. Joseph Dunford, the top U.S. general in Kabul, who said a joint U.S.-Afghan investigation was underway and who assured his bosses he still had confidence in the Afghan military.

There are only a few U.S. generals in Afghanistan. The highest ranking among them is Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the top commander of U.S. and coalition forces.

The Pentagon's press secretary, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, said the general and other officials were on a routine visit to the military university on a base west of Kabul.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Defense Ministry, said a "terrorist in an army uniform" opened fire on both local and international troops. Azimi and U.S. officials said the shooter was killed.

Taliban spokesman Zabi-



This image provided by the U.S. Army shows Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene. A U.S. official has identified the senior officer killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 5, 2014, as Greene, the highest-ranking American officer killed in combat since 1970.



This image provided by the U.S. Army shows Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene. A U.S. official has identified the senior officer killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 5, 2014, as Greene, the highest-ranking American officer killed in combat since 1970.

half were Americans, several of them in serious condition.

U.S. officials still asserted confidence in their partnership with the Afghan military, which appears to be holding its own against the Taliban but will soon be operating independently once most U.S.-led coalition forces leave at the

plus attacks that threatened to shatter all trust between Afghan and allied forces. U.S. commanders imposed a series of precautionary tactics, and the number of such attacks declined sharply last year. The White House said President Barack Obama was briefed on the shooting. Obama and Defense Sec-

hullah Mujahid praised in a statement the "Afghan soldier" who carried out the attack. He did not claim the Taliban carried out the attack, although in the past the Taliban have encouraged such actions. Such assaults are sometimes claimed by the Taliban insurgency as proof of their infiltration. Others are

attributed to personal disputes or resentment by Afghans who have soured on the continued international presence in their country more than a dozen years after the fall of the Taliban from power.

Mark Jacobson, a former NATO deputy civilian representative to Afghanistan and now a senior adviser at the private Truman National Security Project, said the threat of Afghan troops turning their guns of their American partners is a serious problem.

"Any sort of insider attack, no matter who the victim is, is going to have an impact on the morale of soldiers," Jacobson said, adding that when a higher-ranking officer is killed, "you might see a wider impact on morale."

Foreign aid workers, contractors, journalists and other civilians in Afghanistan are increasingly becoming targets of violence as the U.S.-led military coalition continues a withdrawal to be complete by the end of the year.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned Tuesday's attack as "cowardly." It is "an act by the enemies who don't want to see Afghanistan have

Associated Press strong institutions," Karzai said in a statement.

The site of the attack is part of a military compound known as Camp Qargha, sometimes called "Sandhurst in the Sand"—referring to the famed British military academy—because British forces oversaw building the officer school and its training program.

Soldiers were tense in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. One soldier in a NATO convoy leaving Camp Qargha fired an apparent warning shot in the vicinity of Associated Press journalists who were in a car, as well as pedestrians standing nearby. AP photographer Massoud Hossaini said he and an AP colleague were about 15 feet from the soldier at the time. Hossaini said he thought the soldier fired a pistol.

"The vehicle before the last one, someone shouted at me," Hossaini said. "The last one, the soldier opened fire."

No one was wounded. Elsewhere Tuesday, a NATO helicopter strike targeting missile-launching Taliban militants killed four civilians in western Afghanistan, an Afghan official said. NATO said it was investigating. □

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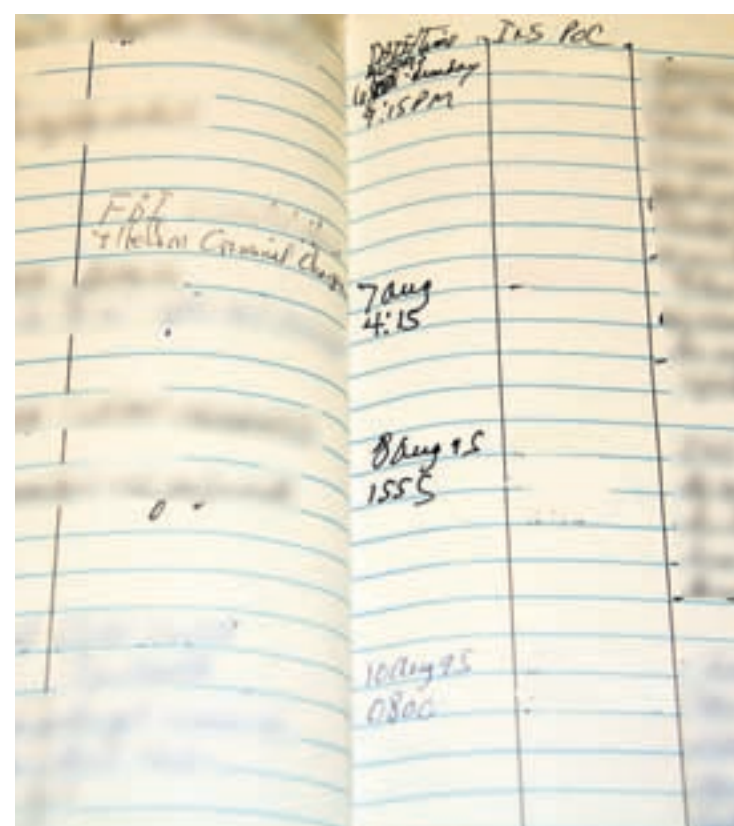


U.S. terrorism database doubles in recent years

EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. government database of known or suspected terrorists doubled in size in recent years, according to newly released government figures. The growth is the result of intelligence agencies submitting names more often after a near-miss attack in 2009. There were 1.1 million people in the database at the end of 2013, according to the National Counterterrorism Center, which maintains the information. About 550,000 people were listed in the database in March 2010. The Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, or TIDE, is a huge, classified database of people who

are known terrorists, are suspected of having ties to terrorism or in some cases are related to or are associates of known or suspected terrorists. It feeds to smaller lists that restrict people's abilities to travel on commercial airliners to or within the U.S. The government does not need evidence linking someone to terrorism in order for the person to be included in the database. This is among the reasons the database and subsequent terror watch lists have been criticized by privacy advocates. An online publication, The Intercept, on Tuesday reported that 40 percent of people on the terrorism watch list — which is a subset of names in the TIDE

database — were not affiliated with any recognized terrorist organization. The publication cited documents from one year ago. The growth of the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment is a result of the government's response to a failed attempt to blow up a commercial airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day in 2009. The terror operative's name was included in the database before the attack but not on a list that would have prevented him from boarding a U.S.-bound flight. Since then, the government lowered the standards for placing someone on the no-fly list, and intelligence agencies have become more diligent about submitting names to the TIDE



This undated handout photo provided by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) shows a redacted ledger with names of suspected terrorists.
Associated Press

database. Of the 1.1 million people in the TIDE database, 25,000 are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, the National Counterterrorism Center said. The database was created after the September 2001 terror attacks after it became clear that the government's terror watch list was ineffective. The watch list was once maintained in a Rolodex and in paper notebooks, according to edited photographs provided by the National Counterterrorism Center. Other terror watch lists derived from the TIDE database have also grown. As of November 2013, the Terrorist Screening Database consisted of 700,000 people, according to a government official. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive numbers. Questions about the watch list surfaced in a recent civil lawsuit out of

Virginia challenging the constitutionality of the no-fly list. The government disclosed that there were 1.5 million nominations to the watch list over the last five years. Weeks later, a government official explained that a "nomination" meant new names as well as changes or updates to existing names on the list, and the figure in the court document should not have been interpreted to mean that 1.5 million people had been added to the watch list in the last five years, as The Associated Press reported July 18. In August 2013, there were more than 73,000 people affiliated with al-Qaida in Iraq on the terror watch list, according to a document marked "secret," obtained by The Intercept. That al-Qaida affiliate represented the largest group of people associated with a known terrorist group on the watch list at the time. □





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Boy fatally stabbed by 12-year-old at playground

COREY WILLIAMS
PRIYA SRIDHAR

Associated Press
KENTWOOD, Michigan (AP)

— A 9-year-old boy died after being repeatedly stabbed by a 12-year-old boy at a playground, police said Tuesday.

Michael Conner Verkerke ran home and collapsed on the porch around 6 p.m. Monday after he was stabbed at a mobile home park in western Michigan, according to police. Investigators said the older boy then left the playground and called police from a nearby home to turn himself in. The 12-year-old pleaded not guilty to a murder charge in juvenile court on Tuesday, according to his attorney. He was ordered held in a juvenile detention center.

Barb Poelman told The Associated Press she was sitting on her deck in a mobile home park when "we heard the kids run across the front ... screaming. He (Michael) ran with the kids that were with him."

She said the boy's mother was distraught, pleading for help as she lay on the grass outside the family's home. "She was screaming, 'Where is the ambulance?' while her boy was laying on the porch bleeding," Poelman said. "The kids, I thought they were just playing."

Witnesses told investigators that four children were playing when one of them, for unknown reasons, pulled a knife and stabbed the boy. Glen Stacy, who lives nearby, told The Grand Rapids Press that the older boy approached him after the attack and asked to use his phone. He said the boy called police to report the attack and turn himself in. Stacy said he also called police and described the boy as "very calm." "The only time he raised his voice was when the police came," Stacy said.

When police arrived at the mobile home park, they first went to aid the stabbing victim, but the older boy wanted the officers to pick him up and yelled,



In this Aug. 4, 2014 photo, Kentwood police investigate a stabbing that occurred in a playground in Pinebrook Village, in Kentwood, Mich

.Associated Press.

"Hello, I'm right here. You're going the wrong way," Stacy said. The motive in the attack was still being investigated, Police Chief Thomas Hillen said. Tiffany Armijo said her son was playing with Michael during the stabbing, adding that she had never seen the 12-year-old before. She declined to discuss any details about the attack, but said Michael was "a good kid" and her son's best friend.

"He was playing with Michael and his brother, and my kid, too," she said. "They always played together. He was at my house almost every day."

Police said the 12-year-old boy was evaluated at a hospital then taken to the county juvenile detention center. Defense attorney Charles Boekeloo said he entered a not-guilty plea for the boy during a hearing Tuesday afternoon in juvenile court, adding that he may seek a mental evaluation to determine if the boy is competent to stand trial.

Poelman said the boy lived with his parents and two siblings in the mobile home park. A man who identified himself as Michael's grandfather when the AP called a phone number listed for his home declined to comment. □

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Lincoln's handwriting found on book about race

KERRY LESTER
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (AP) — For years, librarians at a small central Illinois library gossiped that a tattered book lying on one of its shelves justifying racism may have been in the hands of none other than Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator.

On Tuesday, state historians confirmed that theory by announcing Lincoln's handwriting had been found inside the cover of the 700-page text, at the same time taking great pains to offer reassurance that the former president who ended slavery in the U.S. didn't subscribe to the theories at hand, but likely read the book to better educate himself about his opponents' line of thinking.

"Lincoln was worried that the whole idea that you could segregate one group of people based on some brand new thinking would just carry on into other realms," Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Curator James Cornelius Tuesday said of Lincoln. "He could foresee the whole country coming apart over the issue that different people could be barred from different things based on different qualities."

"Types of Mankind" makes a case that different races were formed at different times and places and thus can't be equals. It was seized upon by slave owners during the Civil War era as support for their way of life. The authors suggested that Africans and Native Americans were fundamentally different from Caucasians, and enslaving them was part of the natural order. Like so many other supposed Lincoln artifacts discovered in places the former president frequented, the authenticity of the inscription remained in question

for years, until a new library director decided to have it inspected by experts at the state historical museum this summer.

"We didn't know whether we should take it seriously," Vespasian Warner Public Library Assistant Director Bobbi Perryman said.

But shortly after the 700-page book arrived at the Lincoln Library and Museum, Cornelius made a swift assessment by looking at handwriting and spacing between letters, one that was quickly backed up by other experts on staff, as well as an outside expert the museum asked to inspect the book.

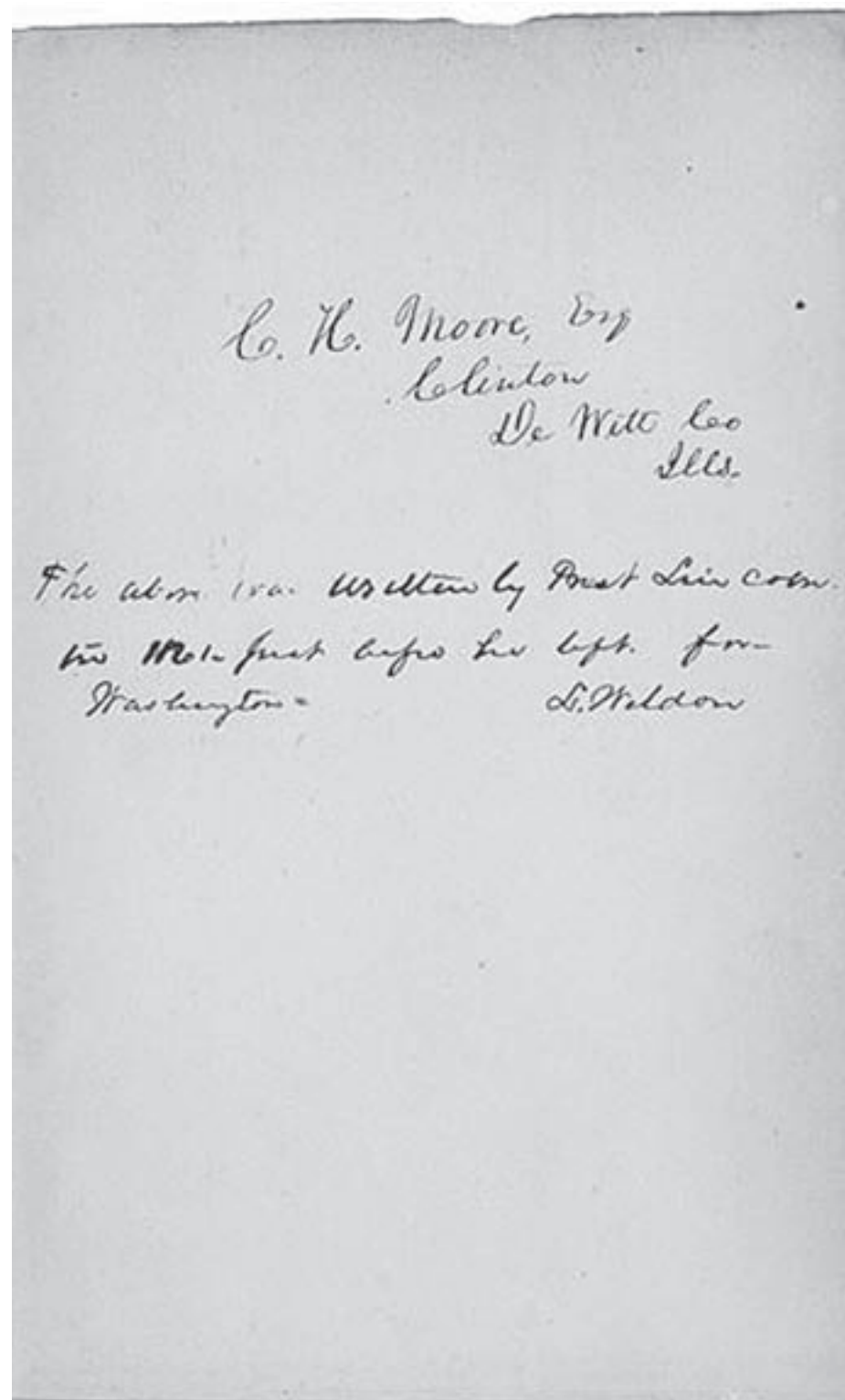
"There are certain letters of the alphabet that Lincoln wrote in a way that were not common to his era," Cornelius said, referencing Lincoln's style of writing E's and N's. "A forger can typically do some of the letters in a good Lincolnian way. They'll give themselves away on a couple of the others. This all adds up."

"Types of Mankind" was published in 1854 and circulated for decades by the Vespasian Warner Library in Clinton, Illinois.

Local attorney Clifton Moore, a colleague of Lincoln's, had donated thousands of books to the system, which formed the basis of the library's circulating collection when it opened in the early 1900s.

The inscription inside "Types of Mankind" doesn't bear Lincoln's signature — but a note in his handwriting on one of the first pages states that the copy rightfully belongs to Moore. Below that inscription is an attestation by another local attorney noting that Lincoln wrote inside the book in 1861, just before he left for Washington after being elected president.

Perryman said the library doesn't



This undated photo provided by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill., shows what historical experts say is Abraham Lincoln's handwriting they've found inside a tattered book justifying racism that he may have read to better understand his opponents' thinking on slavery.

Associated Press

know exactly when the book was retired from circulation — only that it suffered significant wear and tear from being borrowed for so many years.

Perryman said the library is currently keeping the book in its safe deposit box, with plans to restore it eventually and put it on display in a secure place. □

Clinic owner tied to MLB scandal to plead guilty

JENNIFER KAY

TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The former clinic owner accused of selling performance-enhancing drugs to baseball star Alex Rodriguez has agreed to plead guilty in what prosecutors called a wide-ranging conspiracy to distribute steroids to both major league ballplayers and high school athletes.

The charges filed Tuesday against former Biogenesis of America owner Anthony Bosch and six others marked one of the biggest salvos yet in a case that has dragged on for nearly two years. The case has sparked lawsuits, mudslinging and suspensions against numerous major leaguers, including Rodriguez.

Also charged was Yuri Suncart, 52, a cousin of Rodriguez who the New York Yankees third baseman has said provided him with steroids from 2000 to 2003 when he played for the Texas Rangers.

Suncart and the others are accused of acting as recruiters, setting up meetings between the athletes and Bosch, who introduced himself as "Dr. T," authorities said. Professional athletes paid up to \$12,000 a month for the drugs provided by Biogenesis, while high schoolers paid up to \$600 a month. All the clients were promised that the substances would not be found through drug testing, prosecutors said.

"He is not a doctor," Mark R. Trouville, chief of the Miami Drug Enforcement Administration office, said of Bosch. "He is a drug dealer."

U.S. Attorney Wifredo A. Ferrer said Bosch did not have a medical license, making what happened all the more dangerous.

"As with many drug cases, these defendants were motivated by one thing — by money," Ferrer said.

Major League Baseball was not part of the criminal investigation and declined comment. No athletes were charged nor named

in court documents, and it is unclear how many may have been involved. However, authorities said Bosch admitted to providing performance-enhancing drugs to 18 high schoolers. For now, Bosch has pleaded not guilty and his bond was set at \$100,000. He faces up to 10 years in prison.

"In terms of an agreement to cooperate and plead guilty, Bosch has agreed to do that," Ferrer said.

Michael McCann, director of the sports and entertainment law center at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, said it's unlikely that the players involved in this scandal will face criminal charges, unless there's any evidence that a player went beyond using drugs and into distributing them.

"They could lose an endorsement contract because of a morals clause in their contract, but if that were to happen I think it would have already happened," McCann said. "In terms of punishment from baseball, baseball has punished them."

The prosecution may have taken so long because investigators might have wanted to confirm the information they were getting from Bosch, even if he was cooperating, McCann said.

"He's not somebody with a great track record, there are reasons to doubt him in terms of his credibility," he said.

Joe Tacopina, a lawyer for Rodriguez, said the arrests Tuesday represent a degree of closure for Rodriguez and will enable him to focus on an eventual return to baseball.

"It sort of reinforces the notion that Alex committed no crime, number one," Tacopina said. "And number two, quite frankly, this really signified the beginning of the end of the whole Biogenesis saga and allows Alex to focus on the future going forward."

Rodriguez is currently serving a season-long suspension, the longest penalty in the sport's history related

to performance-enhancing drugs. He was the only one 14 players involved in the scandal to contest his penalty.

However, since the investigation is ongoing, it remains possible that more players could eventually face sanctions as a result of the Biogenesis probe.

Rodriguez denied taking steroids while playing for the Yankees, though his cousin was banned from the team's clubhouse, charter flights and other activities after Rodriguez said Suncart obtained the steroids he used while playing for the Rangers.

Bosch was charged with conspiracy to distribute testosterone, as was Suncart, Carlos Javier Acevedo, Jorge Augustine



In this photo provided by ESPN, Anthony Bosch, center, is escorted by Drug Enforcement Administration officials in Weston, Fla., Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014. Associated Press

Velazquez, Christopher Benjamin Engroba, Juan Carlos Nunez and Lazaro Daniel Collazo — a well-known youth and college baseball coach who has worked at schools including Miami, Louisville, Florida

State and South Florida. Acevedo pleaded not guilty and his bond was set at \$100,000. Engroba pleaded not guilty and his bond was \$50,000. No other pleas were entered Tuesday. □



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Museum rediscovers ancient skeleton in storage

KATHY MATHESON

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An archaeology museum in Philadelphia has made an extraordinary find — in its own storage rooms. The University of Pennsylvania's Penn Museum announced Tuesday that it had rediscovered a 6,500-year-old human skeleton originally excavated from southern Iraq around 1930.

The complete remains, which had been kept in a coffin-like box, were missing documentation until researchers recently began digitizing the museum's collection from an expedition to Ur, an ancient city near modern-day Nasiriyah.

Project manager William Hafford was matching



6,500-year-old human remains are displayed at the The Penn Museum, part of the University of Pennsylvania, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

objects with inventory lists from the Sumerian trek when he came across a description of a full skeleton that he couldn't find. He consulted Janet Monge, chief curator of

physical anthropology, who happened to know of an unlabeled, mystery skeleton in the facility's basement storage area.

"So we went, found the crate, opened it up and

compared it to the field notes and the field photographs, and we had a match," Hafford said.

The body is believed to be that of a well-muscled man at least 50 who stood 5 feet, 9 inches tall (1.75 meters), according to Monge. She hopes a skeletal analysis, possibly including a CT scan, will reveal more about his diet, stresses, diseases and ancestral origins.

Complete human skeletons from that era — known as the Ubaid period, from 5500-4000 B.C. — are rare, partly because the region's burial practices and type of land didn't lead to good preservation, Monge said.

The skeleton was cut into deep silt, indicating that the man had lived after an

epic flood. That led Penn researchers to nickname their re-discovery "Noah." Archaeologists from the Ivy League university teamed up with researchers from the British Museum in 1922 for a dig led by Sir Leonard Woolley. Half of the objects found over the next 12 years at Ur were sent to the National Museum of Iraq museum in Baghdad, while the other half was split between London and Philadelphia.

Hafford and his counterparts in Britain are now working to digitize their share of the collection. They hope curators in Baghdad will eventually do the same, but coordination with officials in the war-torn nation has been difficult, Hafford said.

Coincidentally, in June, researchers at Bristol University in Britain discovered a box of materials from the same Ur expedition on top of a cupboard. Researchers determined the objects were 4,500 years old, including pottery, seeds, carbonized apple rings and animal bones.

No one knows how the box got to Bristol, which had no connection to the Woolley dig. Monge said it's not uncommon for a research institution like Penn — which is filled with hundreds of thousands of objects, from the smallest pottery shard to enormous totem poles — to have question marks surrounding the origins of some items.

"I have quite a few specimens that are cold case, orphaned museum collections," Monge said. "So that gives us the fun enterprise of going back and sleuthing through all of the archival material and trying to identify them as best as we can." □

Hawaii loads up on supplies as 2 major storms loom

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii residents loaded up on bottled water and canned meat Tuesday to prepare for the unusual threat of a hurricane and tropical storm barreling toward the islands.

Two big storms so close together is rare in the eastern Pacific, and Hurricane Iselle could make landfall by Thursday and Tropical Storm Julio could hit three days later, officials said.

Hurricane Iselle is expected to weaken to a tropical storm when it hits the Big Island on Thursday afternoon and then sweep over the remaining islands, said Brian Miyamoto, spokesman for State Civil Defense/Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

He said "tropical storms are nothing to laugh at" and

could bring heavy rains and sustained winds of up to 50 mph (80 kph).

The outlook for Julio is more uncertain — it could hit the islands by Sunday, Miyamoto said.

The clustered storms are rare but not unexpected in years with a developing El Nino, a change in ocean temperature that affects weather around the world.

"The central Pacific doesn't

see nearly the activity that the Atlantic sees," said James Franklin, chief of hurricane specialists for the National Hurricane Center in Miami. But when an El Nino develops □



Shoppers lift cases of bottled water in preparation for a hurricane and tropical storm heading toward Hawaii at the Iwilei Costco in Honolulu on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014.

Associated Press



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Japanese scientist in stem-cell research scandal found dead

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A senior Japanese scientist embroiled in a stem-cell research scandal died Tuesday in an apparent suicide, police said. Yoshiaki Sasai, who supervised and co-authored stem-cell research papers that had to be retracted due to falsified contents, was found suffering from cardiac arrest at the government-affiliated science institute RIKEN in Kobe, in western Japan, according to Hyogo prefectural police. Sasai, 52, was deputy chief of RIKEN's Center for Developmental Biology. A security guard found him with a rope around his neck, according to RIKEN. Sasai was rushed to a hospital, but was pronounced dead two hours later.

Police and RIKEN said Sasai left what appeared to be suicide notes, but refused to disclose their contents. RIKEN spokesman Satoru Kagaya told a news conference that Sasai had three letters with him, each addressed to Haruko Obokata, a co-author of the research papers, as well as senior members of RIKEN and fellow researchers. Two other notes addressed to RIKEN officials were on Sasai's secretary's desk. Sasai's health had deteriorated over the past few months, and he had been receiving medical treatment. Kagaya said that Sasai started looking depressed in May, and that the two had hardly seen each other recently. "He seemed exhausted. I could tell he was tired even

on the phone," Kagaya said, referring to one of his last conversations with Sasai.

Sasai's team retracted the research papers from the British science journal Nature over Obokata's alleged malpractice, which she has contested. Retractions of papers in major scientific journals are extremely rare, and the scandal was a major embarrassment to Japanese scientific research.

Obokata was in shock when she heard the news of Sasai's death, Kagaya said. Obokata has been in and out of the hospital since the scandal due to her mental condition, and RIKEN has arranged a team of medical staff and colleagues to give her support, while monitoring her around the clock, he said. In two papers published in Nature earlier this year, the researchers reported that they successfully transformed ordinary mouse cells into versatile stem cells by exposing them to a mildly acidic environment. Scientists hope to harness stem cells to grow replacement tissue for treating a variety of diseases. RIKEN later held Obokata, a main author of the research, responsible for falsifying data.

The investigation also focused on Sasai and two other employees, though the three were not accused of research misconduct.

Sasai had said he was "deeply ashamed" over the problems with the papers. □



In this April 16, 2014 photo, Yoshiaki Sasai, deputy chief of the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, speaks during a press conference in Tokyo.

Associated Press



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UN: Humanitarian situation in Ukraine worsening

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A senior U.N. official warned the Security Council at an emergency meeting Tuesday that the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine is steadily worsening as power and water supplies are scarce, homes are destroyed and health workers flee.

John Ging, director of U.N. humanitarian operations, said that violence, especially in urban areas, will put more people at risk and lead to "an increase in the numbers killed" if a political solution can't be reached.

"Immediate action is therefore required to prevent this," he told council members. To date, 1,367



Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Rosemary DiCarlo speaks as the U.N. Security Council meets to discuss the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, at the United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

UK: Man arrested on suspicion of bomb hoax

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police arrested a man Tuesday on suspicion of making a hoax bomb threat aboard a Qatar Airways plane bound for Britain that forced Royal Air Force fighter jets to escort the jet to a safe landing. Qatar Airways Flight 23, carrying 269 passengers and 13 crew on a flight from Doha, Qatar, landed without incident at Manchester Airport, the flight's original destination. Qatar Airways said in a statement that the crew on the Airbus A330-300 received a "threat about a possible device on board" and immediately alerted British authorities. It did not clarify the nature of the threat or say how it was communicated.

Greater Manchester

Police had been dealing with the incident as a full emergency, and the runway was briefly closed. After landing, the plane was moved to a designated area to allow specialist officers to board, and the suspect was swiftly removed.

The Ministry of Defense said the fighters were launched to investigate "a civilian aircraft whose pilot had requested assistance."

"The aircraft was escorted to Manchester where it landed safely," the ministry said in a statement. "This incident is now being handled by the civilian authorities."

Crew members were assisting police with the investigation, the carrier said. It said that it could not comment further because the matter is part of a police investigation. □

people, civilians and combatants, have been killed, Ging said.

The meeting, requested by Russia, comes after fighting in eastern Ukraine reached the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk. Pro-Russia separatists and government troops on Tuesday exchanged rocket fire in the latest clashes since the two sides began battling in April.

Ukraine and Western countries have accused Moscow of fueling the mutiny with weapons and soldiers, a claim the Russian government has repeatedly denied.

Ukraine's deputy ambassador Oleksandr Pavlichenko denied there was a humanitarian crisis in Ukraine but said the humanitarian situation in Donetsk and Luhansk is still serious. "The situation is manageable by

the government of Ukraine, which remains open to co-operation with international partners," he said.

Ging said nearly 4 million people living in the region are affected by violence. Water and power supplies have sustained significant damage.

In Donetsk and Luhansk, the water supply has been cut to a few hours per day, health supplies are running low and an estimated 70 percent of health personnel have fled, he said.

Just over 4,000 people have been wounded in eastern Ukraine since April. About 58,000 people have left since early July, and more than a thousand others are fleeing each day, Ging said.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said the situation in the east, particularly in Luhansk and Donetsk,

is "disastrous." He accused the Ukrainian military of indiscriminate shelling of housing. In many small towns, he said, 80 percent of the houses have been destroyed and hundreds of buildings have collapsed.

Churkin said Russia wants to send a humanitarian convoy to Luhansk and Donetsk under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

U.S. deputy ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo questioned whether the humanitarian situation in Ukraine merited an emergency meeting, a view echoed by Rwanda. Britain's U.N. Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said "it is deeply ironic that Russia should call for an emergency meeting of the council to discuss a humanitarian crisis largely of its own creation." □



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Israel, Hamas to negotiate new Gaza deal in Cairo

KARIN LAUB
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— The outlines of a solution for battered, blockaded Gaza are emerging after Tuesday's tentative Israel-Hamas cease-fire: Norway is organizing a donor conference and Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas aims to oversee rebuilding and reassert his authority in the territory, lost to Hamas in 2007.

Forces loyal to Abbas would be deployed at Gaza's crossings to encourage Israel and Egypt to lift the closure they imposed after the Hamas takeover. Indirect Israel-Hamas talks in Cairo are to tackle the details. The hope is that promises of a better life for Gazans will coax compromise and avert what had been looking like a fight to the finish.

The gaps remain wide, especially between Israel and Hamas.

Israel says it has inflicted a painful blow to Hamas' military capabilities in the monthlong fighting and wants to make sure the group cannot re-arm if border restrictions are eased.

"The extent to which we are going to be ready to cooperate with the efforts to have better access and movement in Gaza will deeply depend on the kind of arrangements that would secure our peace and security," said Yossi Kuperwasser, a senior official in Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry.

Hamas, in turn, has signaled flexibility on ceding some authority to Abbas in Gaza, but insists on having a say on reconstruction and that it will not disarm. Izzat Rishq, a senior Hamas official, said disarming isn't



A Palestinian stands amid the rubble of his bedroom in a building destroyed by Israeli strikes in Beit Lahiya, in the northern Gaza Strip, Monday, Aug. 4, 2014.
Associated Press

up for discussion.

"We'd take the life of anyone who tries to take the weapons of resistance," he told The Associated Press. Despite such tough talk, Hamas is in a position of relative weakness.

The Islamic militant group's fortunes changed dramatically last year after the Egyptian military deposed a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo and began closing hundreds of smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border.

The closures deprived Hamas of a key source of revenue — the taxation of goods brought through the tunnels — and prevented weapons and cash destined for Hamas from flowing into Gaza.

By this spring, Hamas was in such a severe financial crisis that it accepted a reconciliation deal with Abbas. Under that agreement, an Abbas-led government was to run both the West Bank and Gaza, though thorny issues were put off, including Hamas' insistence that it retain control over its security

forces. The unity government was stumbling by the time Israel-Hamas fighting erupted on July 8.

Even before the war, Gaza was in bad shape because of the prolonged blockade.

Unemployment in the impoverished territory of 1.8 million people had risen well above 50 percent, in part because of Egypt's tunnel closures. Only half of Gaza's electricity needs were being met, and the closure prevented most Gaza residents from travel. After four weeks of intensive fighting, including close to 5,000 Israeli strikes on Gaza targets, the devastation is widespread.

According to initial figures from Gaza's main U.N. aid agency, some 10,000 homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. Gaza's only power plant was forced to shut down last week after being shelled by Israel, and repairs will take months, Gaza officials said.

One of the hardest-hit areas was the southern town of Rafah, where intense

shelling over the weekend appeared to have spared little. Mosques, homes, offices, stores and at least one school either lay in ruins or were badly damaged, hit by shrapnel or gunfire.

After Tuesday's cease-fire took effect at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT), thousands of Rafah residents returned home to try to salvage belongings. Ahmed Barbakh, a 36-year-old government employee, emerged from his badly damaged home with a plastic bag containing the birth certificates of his five children and other crucial documents. A lone chicken was all that was left of the dozens he raised at home. "I am not taking it. What am I supposed to do with a chicken now? I need a place to live with my wife and children," Barbakh said as he made his way out of his crushed home. Nearly 1,900 Palestinians have been killed, the vast majority civilians, according to Gaza health officials and U.N. figures. On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers and three civilians were killed.

The truce is to remain in effect for at least three days, with an expectation that it will be extended to allow Cairo talks on a Gaza solution to proceed. Both the United States and the U.N. are sending representatives.

Mohammed Mustafa, a deputy prime minister in the Abbas-led government, said he has already started preparing a Gaza reconstruction plan that would be presented at an international pledging conference in Norway.

He said the usual lineup of donors — the United States, European Union, Japan, Arab states and international organizations like the World Bank are likely to be there.

Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Veslemoe Salvesen confirmed that Norway will host the conference in early September in Oslo, but said no date has been set.

International Mideast envoy Tony Blair is also involved in arranging the conference, his office said. Mustafa, an economist, said in a phone interview from the West Bank that the war caused at least \$6 billion in immediate damage, but the figure is expected to rise once inspectors can survey the territory.

Abbas expects to take the lead in any reconstruction effort, Mustafa said, suggesting that Hamas should step aside and enable the Abbas-led unity government to carry out the task. "This is the deal, this is my understanding of our role in the future," he said.

Rishq, the Hamas official, said his movement does not have a problem with Abbas raising money for Gaza, but expects to have a say about rebuilding the territory. □

DNA test ends a mystery of Argentina's 'dirty war'

BEN FOX

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The founder of Argentina's leading human rights group said Monday that she had located the grandson taken from her daughter while a prisoner of the military dictatorship in the 1970s, one of the long-unsolved mysteries from the "dirty war" era that still haunts the country.

Surrounded by her large extended family, an emotional Estela Barnes de Carlotto, founder of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, announced that her long hunt for her grandchild had ended, while acknowledging other families are still searching for hundreds of children taken under similar circumstances. "Thanks to God, thanks to life, because I didn't want to die without embracing him and soon I will be able to," the 83-year-old grandmother said at a news conference covered live on national TV. She has not yet met him.

The now 36-year-old man came forward on his own



Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, Rosa de Roisinbliit, left, 95, and Estela de Carlotto, right, hug during a news conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, August 5, 2014.

to have a DNA test taken and have the sample compared in a national database because he had doubts about his own identity, said Guido Carlotto, a son of de Carlotto who is human rights secretary for Buenos Aires Province. The family didn't release the man's name, but Argentine media identified

him as Ignacio Hurban, a pianist and composer who is director of a music school in the city of Olavarria southwest of Buenos Aires. Carlotto said the DNA test revealed with a compatibility match of "99.9 percent" that the man is the son of Laura Carlotto, a university student activist who was executed in August 1978 two months after she gave birth while being held under the dictatorship's brutal campaign against guerrillas and other opponents of the regime. The announcement was major news in Argentina, drowning out coverage of the recent default forced

on the country by a legal dispute with U.S. investors. De Carlotto is considered a symbol of the struggle for justice for victims of the 1976-83 dictatorship that, according to official statistics, "disappeared" at least 13,000 people. Activists say the death toll was more than twice as high. President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner called de Carlotto when she learned the news. "Cristina called me crying ... I told her, 'Yes, Cristina it's true.' She said, 'What great joy,' and we cried together," the long-term activist said. The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo believe

around 500 children were seized from people killed by the dictatorship and given to couples who supported the government. The group has so far helped to identify 114 of the illegally adopted children in a campaign that has stirred painful memories.

The Grandmothers successfully pushed for the creation of the DNA database that enables people illegally adopted to determine their real identity.

Two former dictators were eventually convicted along with others of systematically kidnapping children. Jorge Rafael Videla died in prison in May 2013 while serving a 50-year sentence. Reynaldo Bignone remains in prison.

De Carlotto said the parents who received her daughter's child "may have done so innocently," not knowing the newborn's origins. "We don't have the whole story yet, but we are going to get it," she said.

Laura Carlotto was a Peronist militant detained while pregnant in November 1977 along with the baby's father, Oscar Montoya, a member of the Montoneros guerrilla group. He also was killed in captivity.

The baby was taken shortly after being born in a military hospital and his mother was executed soon thereafter. □



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Peru judge orders family off land claimed for mine

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A Peruvian judge has ruled in favor of the owner of Latin America's biggest gold mine and ordered a family of four to abandon land it says has always been in its possession.

The case has become emblematic for activists who claim multinational mining companies wield overwhelming influence in Peru. Provincial judge Tomy Padilla found in favor of Yanacocha, which is majority owned by U.S.-based Newmont Mining Co., deeming

the Chaupe family trespassers.

He ordered them to turn over their 75-acre highlands farm to Yanacocha. It is crucial to Yanacocha's \$4.8 billion Conga mining project, which has been stalled since 2012 protests that claimed five lives.

Padilla imposed 32-month suspended sentences for the family and ordered members to pay Yanacocha \$1,900.

Defense attorney Mirtha Vaquez says the family will appeal. □



In this Aug. 21, 2012 file photo, residents march during a demonstration against the Conga gold and silver mining project in Mamacocha Lagoon, Peru.

Associated Press



Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa celebrates introduction of Espa products at acclaimed Larimar Spa

The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa recently hosted a spa party at its acclaimed Larimar Spa to celebrate the spa's partnership with the ESPA brand of luxury organic spa products. Invited guests were pampered while they received a preview of the spa's impressive new menu of products and treatments.

In partnership with the AAA Four Diamond resort, ESPA has created a new spa menu, officially launching June 20, complete with signature treatments that evoke the true meaning of the Caribbean while generating outstanding results of the mind and body and can be enjoyed as a couple, or individually.

Party guests were introduced to highlights of the new menu, including two new signature treatments, Atlantic Escape with Volcanic Stones and Relax and Reflect.

The Atlantic Escape with Volcanic Stones begins with a dry body brushing exfoliation process, followed by an indulgent massage with volcanic stones, and ends with a comforting scalp massage, using ESPA's famous Pink Hair and Scalp Mud. Relax and Reflect begins with a gentle skin cleanse with the Relaxing Salt Scrub followed by a one-hour personalized body massage using an aromatherapy oil blend of sweet orange, palmarosa and rose geranium. A therapeutic scalp massage completes the experience.

Both signature experiences are 110 minutes, beginning with a refreshing foot ritual and ending with a cleansing coconut water drink. The new ESPA menu also includes three facials with



a supplemental Lift & Firm Eye Treatment, and body treatments and massages including the Sun Down Body Wrap, Fitness Muscle Massage, and an Aromatherapy Massage complete with personal consultation where guests will choose from Detoxifier, De-Stresser, Muscle Relaxer, Jet-Lag Reviver, Immune Booster, Energiser, or Body Toner. "We are excited to begin working with ESPA at Radisson Aruba's Larimar Spa," said Albert Cruz, spa director at Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. "ESPA's values and high standards fall in line perfectly with the resort's core tenants of Rest & Relaxation, Nutrition & Diet, Rejuvenation, and Exercise & Fitness. We have completed the thorough training and are able to



heighten our guests' experience, which is our overall goal at the resort." As ESPA therapists, the resort's team was hand selected and trained to ensure their skills and knowledge base are second to none. This training elevates the treatment experience at Radisson Aruba's Larimar Spa to new heights due to ESPA's



technically advanced, holistic and personalized approach. As global leaders in spa services, ESPA products are found in esteemed spas across five continents. ESPA trained therapists are dedicated to producing results-driven, natural skincare, ensuring skin looks its best at every stage of life. ESPA's award-

winning products are as unique as they are effective. They are tested each and every day by a highly trained and extremely professional global network of therapists.

Photos show the launch party for ESPA's exclusive line of products and treatments, now available at Larimar Spa. □

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Max and Lynn Levin honored at the Paradise Beach Villas



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach Villas as

Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more



consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Max and Mrs. Lynn Levin from Leland NC. Max and Lynn are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much be-

cause of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, fishing, shopping and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise is like being home for them. The certificates

were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Milca Erasmus representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □

Salt & Pepper restaurant is the first stop for Tom and Beatrix from Kentucky

Tom and Beatrix are on the island! That is not exactly a newsworthy piece of information, you could say, but this couple from Louisville, Kentucky, is celebrating 20 years of holidays on Aruba. They come here not once, not twice, not even three times, but four times a year and their first stop is always Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden. Their favorite dinner looks like this: fried brie to start

with and beer-battered fried grouper as their main course with a pitcher of sangria paving the way to good conversations and laughter. The staff of Salt & Pepper would like to say to Tom and Beatrix: 'thank you for your countless visits through the years and enjoy your holiday'. They hope to see you at Salt & Pepper at least twenty more years to come. □





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Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Ocean Club

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Ms. Mary C. Ware and Ms. Mary F. Stuck from Homer NY and Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Nan-cijeanne Swanson from Berlin CT. all of the honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Vacation Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the multi lingual experience

and Aruba feels like a second home, the employees at the Marriott are like a family to them and the Resort is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Erwin Noguera GM at the Marriott Vacation Club. □



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Game 6 AWG 1500	

Burton and Sharon Sorensen honored at the Divi Phoenix



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors at the Aruba Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.



The honorees were Mr. Burton and Mrs. Sharon Sorensen from Maryland Baltimore. Burton and Sharon are loyal members of the Aruba

Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the stunning view of their room and Aruba feels

like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Pearl Lake and Ms. Stephany Wong representing the Divi Phoenix. □

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Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, leaves a news conference for the U.S. nationals at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Complex in Irvine, Calif., on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

Phelps, Lochte, Franklin with something to prove

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

IRVINE, California (AP) —

Missy Franklin was as successful in the classroom during her first year of college as the four-time Olympic gold medalist is in the pool. She scored all A's taking four classes during her second semester at the University of California.

"I was like, 'This is like eight best times,'" she said Tuesday. "I remember calling my parents, and that was just one of those moments where it's exactly like going a best time. You've put in all that work and all that effort, and you get an amazing reward."

Before she begins her sophomore year at Berkeley, Franklin is competing in her biggest meet of the year starting Wednesday. She is set to swim four events at U.S. nationals in Irvine, California, where berths on the American team for the Pan Pacific Championships later this month and next year's world championships are at stake.

Continued on Next Page



SPURRED ON

Hammon becomes first female coach in NBA

Page 20

WNBA star Becky Hammon takes questions from the media at the San Antonio Spurs practice facility after being introduced as an assistant coach with the team on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014 in San Antonio. The San Antonio Spurs hired WNBA star Becky Hammon on Tuesday, making her the first full-time, paid female assistant on an NBA coaching staff.

Associated Press

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Phelps, Lochte

Continued from Page 17

Franklin will swim the 100-meter freestyle on Wednesday, an event that includes fellow Olympians Allison Schmitt, Natalie Coughlin, and Katie Ledecky. Franklin follows that up with a double on Thursday in the 200 free and 200 backstroke, and the 200 back on Saturday. Four years ago in Irvine, Franklin was dancing on the deck to Justin Bieber's

music as a 16-year-old at nationals.

"Chances are you'll probably see me doing that again," the self-described "huge dork" said.

Fast-forward and Franklin said she's "still the exact same person who's sitting up here right now, still just that exuberant, loving-life girl who is swimming, and that's all that matters. I get the opportunity to do what I love every single day."

Three months into his comeback, Michael Phelps is competing at na-

tionals for the first time in two years. He will swim four events, his most ambitious schedule yet since returning to competition in April.

"I still have goals and things that I want to achieve, and I enjoy competing more than anything else," he said.

Phelps and old rival Ryan Lochte will square off in all the same events, and Lochte has something to prove, too. The three-time Olympian is coming off major knee surgery, and no one is quite sure what



Olympic gold medalist Ryan Lochte smiles as he takes questions from the media at the U.S. swimming nationals news conference in Irvine, Calif., on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

to expect from him.

"My knee has been doing really good," he said. "It's back to 100 percent. I'm doing everything I could do before knee surgery." Lochte finished behind Phelps in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke at a meet in Georgia last month.

"I'm glad he's back," said Lochte, who reminded everyone that he had correctly predicted Phelps would un-retire. "It's definitely good for the sport and it helps me out, too, just because we push each other. He's one of the best in swimming, and I always like a challenge." Phelps and Lochte will be part of a loaded field in the 100 free on opening night. Nathan Adrian, Anthony Ervin, Jimmy Feigen, Matt Grevers and Conor Dwyer will try to qualify for the eight-man final, too.

"My freestyle stroke has

been a little different, but it felt a little off," Phelps said. "It felt better today than it has over the last couple weeks."

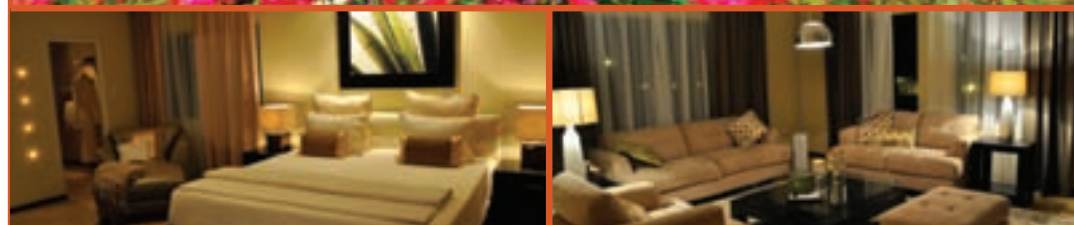
Bob Bowman, Phelps' coach, attributes the 18-time Olympic champion being less comfortable with his freestyle stroke because Phelps is used to swimming the 200. Now, he's switching to the shorter race.

"He's just getting used to that, the tempo and stuff," Bowman said. "Like in that first turn today, I said it looked like you're doing the 200, do another one like a 100."

Earlier Tuesday, Phelps announced he has signed a suit deal with Aqua Sphere, which will design a racing suit for the first time. He won't wear the new suit until January; for now, he plans to wear a cap and goggles designed by the company. □



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VWilliams advances in three-set win at Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — Venus Williams rebounded from a shaky second set to defeat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 in the first round of the Rogers Cup on Tuesday.

Elena Vesnina stepped in as a replacement for the ailing Andrea Petkovic and beat Camila Giorgi 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

The afternoon matches saw scoreboards go dark due to a long power outage that affected 200,000 customers in the area, but the matches went on uninterrupted.

Generators provided lighting as local favorite Eugenie Bouchard took the court for her second-round night match with Shelby Rogers.

Williams, who has played the Rogers Cup in Toronto, but never in Montreal, was on court in the early afternoon when the power went off.

"It was like going back to the southern California juniors," she said. "But I tried to think of it as positive, like 'this will be just like practice, so go ahead and relax. It will be a practice match.' You try to play those mind games when you're out there."

It was an even first-round match, with Pavlyuchenkova ranked 24th and Williams 26th.

"We're both very good players and she's a dangerous player for the top players as well because she can do everything well when she's on," Williams said. "It felt good to win the match and hopefully gain some momentum for the rest of the week."

Williams is on the same side of the draw as her sister, top-seeded Serena, who begins play Wednesday. They could not meet before



Venus Williams returns the ball to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, of Russia, during her first round match at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014.
Associated Press

the semifinals.

Serena Williams is to face Samantha Stosur, who beat qualifier Monica Puig 6-2, 6-2.

"I would love if we both got to the semifinals," Venus said. "I fell a little short last week (at Stanford), but that's why I'm playing these matches this summer. I'm getting better rhythm as I go."

In other matches, third seed Agnieszka Radwanska beat Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-4, 6-4, and 14th seed Carla Suarez Navarro

defeated Bojana Jovanovski 6-4, 6-3. Casey Dellacqua defeated Kirsten Flipkens 6-0, 4-6, 6-2.

Caroline Wozniacki, seeded 11th, had no trouble ousting Daniela Hantuchova 6-1, 6-1 and is on pace to face Bouchard in the third round.

It was more trouble getting ready for the match in the dark.

"It's just so different: Everywhere, in the locker room, it's so dark. We have to use our flashlights and phones. The water is freezing, as

well."

Petkovic, the 16th seed, was unable to play because she was sick. "I pushed it back until the end and really tried to get healthy," she said in a statement. "But I had a temperature and a fever and it's too risky to play like that in these kinds of conditions."

"I'm very disappointed."

She plans to rest in bed for two or three days and try to be ready for a tournament next week in Cincinnati. □

Spurs hire WNBA star Becky Hammon as assistant

JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Basketball Writer

The San Antonio Spurs hired WNBA star Becky Hammon on Tuesday, making her the first full-time, paid female assistant on an NBA coaching staff.

Hammon, who plans to retire from the San Antonio Stars after this season, spent time working with coach Gregg Popovich and the Spurs last season and made a strong impression on an organization with a history of forward-thinking moves.

During the 2001-02 season, Cleveland Cavaliers coach John Lucas brought Lisa Boyer into the team's practices and some games. Boyer, now an assistant at South Carolina, was not paid by the Cavaliers and did not travel with the team, but did work with the players and coaches that season.

Last season, Hammon attended Spurs practices,

film sessions and sat behind the bench for the NBA champions at home game this season. She's been friends with Spurs teammates Tony Parker and Tim Duncan since competing in an NBA All-Star shooting competition in 2008.

"I very much look forward to the addition of Becky Hammon to our staff," Popovich said. "Having observed her working with our team this past season, I'm confident her basketball IQ, work ethic and interpersonal skills will be a great benefit to the Spurs." It's the latest trailblazing move for the Spurs, who hired European coaching legend Ettore Messina to join Popovich's staff earlier this summer and have been the leaders in bringing international players to the NBA for almost two decades. The Spurs are coming off of their fifth NBA title, a decisive victory over the Miami Heat in June.



In this April 30, 2014, file photo, San Antonio Stars' Becky Hammon walks off the court following Game 5 of the opening-round NBA basketball playoff series between the San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Mavericks in San Antonio.

The organization's stature as the league's gold standard, along with Popovich and GM RC Buford being

viewed as two of the very best in the business, led other women who have long dreamed of coach-

Associated Press
ing in the NBA to hope that this is the first major step toward bringing more women into the league. □

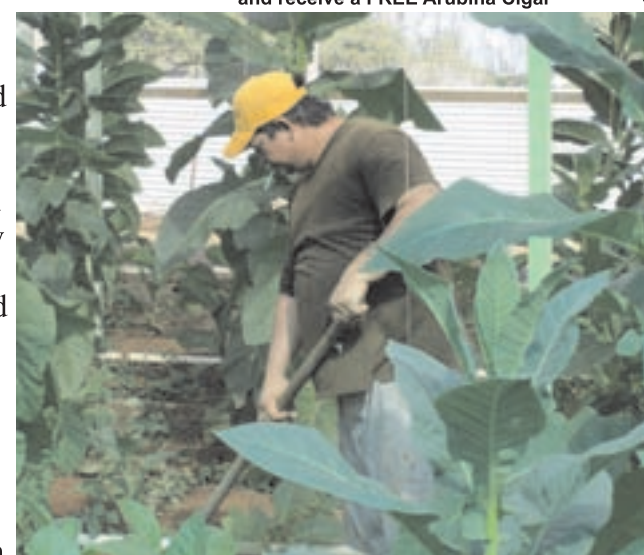
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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Rory McIlroy wary of all the hype entering PGA

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— Golf stories about Rory McIlroy are a lot more flattering than those a year ago. And if he reads too much into them, they can be a lot more dangerous. McIlroy lead from start to finish at Hoylake to win the British Open. Then, he overpowered Firestone at the weekend to win his first World Golf Championship. Now he is the overwhelming favorite at the PGA Championship. He is looked on in some corners as a sure winner, a label once reserved only for Tiger Woods.

Boy Wonder is not so sure about that.

"Sometimes I feel that people are too quick to jump to conclusions," McIlroy said Tuesday before heading out for his first look at Valhalla. "I've had a great run of golf and I've played well over the past few months. Look, I said at the start of the year that golf was looking for someone to put their hand up and sort of become one of the dominant players in the game. I felt like I had the ability to do that. And it's just nice to be able to win a few tournaments and get back to where I feel I should be."

He is No. 1 in the world again. He has threewins in his last seven starts. And with three legs of the career Grand Slam — only Woods and Jack Nicklaus were younger than the 25-year-old McIlroy when they achieved that — there was even talk about the start of a new era.

McIlroy wasn't buying.

"I'm just really happy with where my golf game is at the minute, and I just want to try and continue that for as long as possible," he said. "And people can say what they want to say. That's fine. But I can't read too much into it. ... Because if you read everything that was being written, I'd turn up at the first tee on Thursday thinking I'd already won the tournament."

The question lingered Tuesday whether Woods was going to make it to the first

tee at all.

Woods injured his back Sunday — just four months after back surgery — and canceled his news conference Tuesday. There was no word on his prospects, presumably because he wanted to give himself as much time as possible to see if he could play.

The deadline to register was 5 p.m. local time Tuesday, although the PGA Championship said players who notify officials they will be registering late have until they tee off Thursday. Woods was among six such players. He is to tee off at 8:35 a.m. with Phil Mickelson and Padraig Harrington.

Even if Woods were to play, that wouldn't take the focus from McIlroy.

McIlroy appears to be in full flight, just as he was in his record victory at Congressional in the 2011 U.S. Open, and just as he was when he won the PGA Championship by a record eight shots in 2012, and then added three more wins the rest of the year against strong fields.

Valhalla, where Woods won 14 years ago, would appear to be suited for him. Then again, just about any course is for a guy who hits it long and straight.

McIlroy said his work in gym has added about 7 pounds of muscle in recent months, and he is now the heaviest he has been. He also has shortened his swing, which would make him more accurate off the tee.

"He's such a great driver of the golf ball," Phil Mickelson said as he looked back on McIlroy's win at Firestone. "Even though the golf course was fairly tight and hitting fairways is important, he kept hitting drivers and he kept putting the ball in play and he kept playing the course aggressively and making birdies. And he plays to his strength. He's just a very good talent. We've been waiting a year, year and a half now for it to turn. And it's really turned for him. And he's tough to beat."

McIlroy was foundering at this time a year ago, miss-



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, hits a chip shot on the sixth hole during a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament at Valhalla Golf Club on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, in Louisville, Ky. Associated Press

ing the cut in three out of six tournaments, not even sniffing contention as he worked through equipment changes. The final touch was an alignment

issue he solved after the Masters, and he is soaring now.

Of the 13 players to win a major and a World Golf Championship, McIlroy

and Woods are the only ones to win them in consecutive starts. In the last 20 years, Woods, Padraig Harrington and Nick Price are the only players to win the final two majors of the year.

McIlroy ended Adam Scott's 11-week run at No. 1, and his intent is to stay there.

"I think the right guy is at No. 1 at the moment," Scott said. "I hope that I could go ahead and win this week and maybe go back to No. 1. But there's no doubt Rory has played the best golf over the last few months."

"It's only motivating to see Rory play so well," he said. "I've said a lot that I feel this is my time, so I've got to beat whatever Rory is throwing out there."

McIlroy considers this his best major, and the results bear that out. In five starts, he has finished out of the top 10 only one time. That was in 2011 in Atlanta, where he played the last three rounds with an arm injury after trying to hit a shot through a tree root.

Golf courses typically are softer in August because of the heat. Nicklaus courses tend to have generous fairways, not that McIlroy needs any help these days. The only change now is the perception.

"Expectations are higher. Hype is a little higher," McIlroy said. "So it's a little bit different this year." □

LeBron, sons pitch in on U.S. home rehab

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — LeBron James and his two sons are getting their hands dirty in helping to rehab a house in the National Basketball Association star's Akron hometown of Akron, Ohio. James took the controls of a backhoe Monday to help fix up a crumbling house for the family of a sixth-grader in his Wheels for Education mentoring program.

His sons — LeBron Jr. and

Bryce — pitched in to help remove the front steps, a retaining wall and some porch railings under the direction of reality TV show host Nicole Curtis. Work on the house will be featured later on Curtis' show "Rehab Addict" on the HGTV network.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports that work began Sunday. Businesses donated materials and labor for the project. □



LeBron James knocks the spindles out of a railing at a rehab site on Monday, Aug. 4, 2014, in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

Bo alergia nan scondi ta haciendo bo malo - By Dr Carlos Viana

Alergia na cuminda ta un di e problema nan medico mas comun y e ta creciendo! Un estudio realisa na e Instituto Mericano Pa Salud(NIH) riba solamente cuatro di e alergia nan na cuminda mas comun cu ta entre otro, pinda, cabaron, lechi y webo, a realisa cu 7.5 mijom of casi 3 den 100 hende tin alergianan agudo na un of varios di e tipo di cuminda nan aki. Mijones mas tin caso nan di alergia menos severo of intolerancia na e cuminda nan aki of substancia nan kimico. Un reaccion alergico severo por desaroja dor di pika di maribomba of jellyfish, kimico nan , of dor di tuma remedi nan bien seja compra of dor di prescripcion. E reaccion aki di bo sistema inmunologico cu ta dicidi cu bien sea e cuminda, veneno, kimico of medicina ta enemigo di bo curpa y e ta bay den atake. Cu e tipo di alergia nan aki , e sistema inmunologico ta cuminsa produci candidad nan masivo di un kimico jama histaminico cu lo por tin como consecuencia un reaccion anafilactico. e condicion aki cu ta potencialmente fatal por cuasa cu e curo ta bira cora cu cuaratashi, sinusitis of slijm den garganta y nanihi, wowo nan hincha y dolor di stoma of e por cuasa cu e garganta y e esofago ta hincha y sera haciendo asina cu bo no por hala rosea y aire lo no por drenta den e pulmon. Persona nan cu ta sufrir di alergia nan cu ta asina severo mester papia cu nan docter pa nan por tin semper cu nan un Epipen, of auto injector di epinefrine, obtenible via prescripcion pa stop e curpa di laga asina hopi histamina los y duna e persona aki tempo pa hanja ajudo di emergencia . Un test di sanger , jama IgE por check pa e tipo di response alergico aki, pero solamente ora e ta bow di un

atake. Na e otro extremo bo tin , un inabilidad di tolera cuminda nan of factor nan medioambiental, tambe conoci como sensibilidad of intolerancia, cu ta causa cu e sistema inmunologico ta traha menos severo, pero constantemente. e inflamacion constante aki of cronico ta liga na incontable condicion nan incluyendo: disorden nan digestivo, migranjas, obesidad, fatiga cronico, ADD, depression, joint nan dolo, problema nan di cuero, artritis y hopi otro mas. Un desarorjo grandi aserca di sensibilidad di cuminda a ser realisa dor di trabow di Dr. Karl Landsteiner. na 1902 Dr. landsteiner a descubri e sistema ABO di e grupo nan di sanger. Landsteiner a ripara cu e tipo di sanger di un persona ta hasi e sanger di otro tipo bira diki. Sanger diki cuasa problema di circulacion y ta incrementa e riesgo pa atake di curason y atake di cerebro. No solamente e estudio di Landsteimer a hasi e transfusion di sanger posibel y exitoso y cu a salba miles di bida, tambe a hiba na e indicacion cu cierto tipo di cuminda lo hasi cierto tipo di sanger diki. Basa riba e trabow inicial aki, e dieta di tipo di sanger a ser desarija. pa mas di 10 anja caba na nos clinica nos tawata testigo e cambio nan positivo den salud di nos pashent nan cu ta sigui e modelo di diet segun bo tipo di sanger. Ademas di hasi bo sanger diki, menos obvio ta e reaccion di e curpa na cuminda nan, aditivo di cumindanan , kimiconan, droga nan farmaceutico, schimmel of bescheim, ainda remedi nan herbal ta dificil pa diagnostica. Den un situacion di intolerancia pa un tipo di cuminda of kimico bo sistema inmunologico ta trahando innesesariamente.

Cuminda nan moderno, cuminda nan sintetico, uso excesivo di farmaceutico of kimico nan, area nan electrometrico (EMF), tur ta contribui na sobre stimula bo sistema inmunologico. E sobre estimulacion aki ta hasi cu e sistema inmunologico ta hasi fout y cuminsa ataca y bringa contra cuminda nan cu den un situacion normal ta inofensivo. E error aki lo sigui si bo no elimina e tipo di cuminda nana aki y kibra e ciclo. Ora bo sistema inmunologico ta trahando continuamente , e ta produci inflamacion locul a ser liga na hopi condicion nan cronico incluyendo : problema nan digestivo, migranjas, obesidad, fatiga cronico, ADD, dolor di joint, problema di cuero, artritis y hopi mas. E sintomanan di intolerancia pa cuminda ta varia grandemente y nan por wordu interpret erroneamente pa sintoma nan di alergia. Mientras cu alergia nan di verdad ta asocia cu respons nan rapido, ta dificil pa determina cua ta e cuminda ofensivo of e kimico cu ta cuasando e intolerancia pasobra e response generalmente ta tuma luga riba un periodo largo di tempo. Ta pesei, e cuminda ofensivo of kimico y su response ta separa pa tempo y posise no ta ser relata lo obvio. e sintoma di intolerancia na cuminda ta cuminsa aparece mas of menos mei ora despues di a come of bebe e cuminda en cuestion, pero tin ora nan ta desaroja ta hasta 2 dia despues. E lista di cuminda segun bo tipo di sanger ta bon, pero e ta basa riba linja nan general pa cada tipo di sanger. Pasobra e ta hopi dificil pa elimina tur e cuminda nan riba lista di come di un persona pa desues re-introduci nan poco poco pa check pa sensibilidad, ta obtenible aworaki un test di sanger comprensible

usando sanger di un individuo pa check pa un panel largo di cuminda y kimico nan pa e individuo especifico aki su sensibilidad nan y reaccion nan mas slow.

Apesar u tin test nan pa alergia hasi dor di rasga e cuero, e test nan aki solamente ta check e reaccion di e curpa contra un solo tipo di alergen . dor di motibo aki un test di alergia via di cuero no ta hopi confiabel. Pa mas di 25 anja caba, AL-CAT® worldwide, Test nan pa Intolerancia/sensitividd na Cuminda y Kimico , a provee pashent nan y nutricionistan den e campo di salud un instrumento clave pa exitosamente vence y cura un variedad grandi di condicion nan manera : problema nan digestivo, migranjas, obesidad, fatiga cronico, problema nan di cuero, artritis, hiperactividad, problema nan di slijm, asma, dolor nan generalisa di curpa, cu ta resultado di sensibilidad na cuminda y kimico.

Na Viana Healing Center, nos a observa resultado nan asombroso cu hopi di e condicion nan aki incluyendo un manejo hopi mas eficiente di insulina y individuonan cu previamente tawata tin problema pa perde peso, finalmente perde epeso y mantenen un balance saludable cu un dieta nutritivo y varia. Usando ALCAT y otro resultado nan di test di sanger, na viana Healing Center nos ta prepara un dieta personalisa pa cada pashent. Despues di un periodo di eliminacion y desintoxicacion supervisa di cumindanan cu ta trigger un response, individuo nan ta ser re introduci na hopi cuminda nan mientras nan nivel nan di energia ta subi mientras nan ta exitosamente mantene nan peso.

Get the point! locual bo ta come, bebe y pone

riba bo cuero y hasi bo cas limpi cu ne lo por ta afectando bo salud. Si bo kier check si intolerancia nan di cuminda y/of kimico por ta afectando bo salud, bin serca nos na pa consulta cu un Nutricionista clinico certifica of dr. holistico. Cuminsa un anja nobo cu un mihor salud como punto numero uno riba bo lista. E test di intolerancia na cuminda y kimico ALCAT cu su plan di dieta personalisa y counseling ta na bo disposicion na Viana Healing Center.

CARLOS VIANA ta un Docter (Ph D) den Antropologia Medico, e ta un Docter den Medicina Tradicional Oriental studia na Shanghai, China; nutricionista clinico certifica. Tambe miembro di directiva di e Asociacion di Profesionan den tratamiento di adiccion y toxicologia, Presidente di e comite pa America Latino di e Academia Internacional di Medicina Oral y Toxicologia. Dr. Viana tin un programa di radio tur siman , ta scirbi y duna lectionan extensamente . Pa mas informacion di e servicionan na VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Tel 585 1270 Fax 585 4789, Web sight: www.vianaheal.com "Prescriptions from Paradise" - 2012 International Book Award Winner - ta optenible na Aruba na Viana Healing Center, Tur libreria, Gift shops y centro nan di salud di calidad. tambe ta disponibel den forma do print y pa Kindle download pa nos amigo nan pa fo di Aruba na www.amazon.com Pa anuncio nan acerca di mas evento nan y firmamento di buki check , check corant nan local, radio y television tambe como riba www.vianaheal.com y join e discusion riba nos Facebook pagina: www.facebook.com/prescriptions-formparadise □

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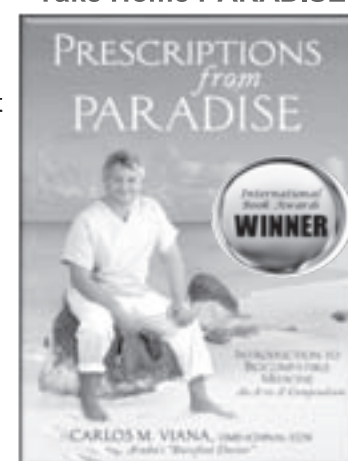
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T-Mobile deal helps Rhapsody hit 2M paying subs

SEATTLE (AP) — Rhapsody International Inc. said Tuesday its partnership with T-Mobile US Inc. has helped boost its number of paying subscribers to more than 2 million, up from 1.7 million in April. Last month, Rhapsody teamed up with the nation's fourth-largest carrier on a new service called unRadio. It allows users to stream randomly generated songs along a genre, artist or song name without ads. It also lets them save 25 favorite songs to their device and lets them skip an unlimited number of tracks.

T-Mobile's highest-tier customers got unRadio for free while other subscribers got \$1 off the \$5 per month service.

Rhapsody also said Tuesday it is expanding the service to Europe through its Napster division in a tie-up with France's second-largest carrier, SFR. There, the service will cost 3.95 euros per month and be called Napster Decou-

verte.

Seattle-based Rhapsody's chief product officer, Paul Springer, said the gap between established players like Rhapsody and Spotify and other upstarts is growing.

European regulators on Monday cleared Apple Inc.'s \$3 billion purchase of Beats Electronics, the headphone maker that runs the nascent music subscription service Beats Music. Google Inc. also bought Internet radio service Songza earlier this month for an undisclosed amount.

Springer suggested in an interview that privately held Rhapsody — with shareholders such as Columbus Nova Technology Partners and Telefonica SA — should be considered by any acquirers looking to get into music streaming quickly.

"Anybody looking to get in would be foolish not to look at established players with a subscriber base," he said. □

StubHub Music app takes on Live Nation in concerts

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — StubHub, the ticket reselling subsidiary of eBay Inc., is launching its StubHub Music app nationwide as it goes after core music fans in a challenge to Live Nation in the concert business.

The app, which launched in San Francisco in June, expanded to major cities nationwide Tuesday. The app — currently only for Apple iPhones — scans your music library and recommends upcoming shows by your favorite artists or similar ones. A radius dial allows you to set how far you're willing to travel to see a show, up to 150 miles.

In many cases, it will direct fans to StubHub to buy tickets that are being resold. Sometimes, if the show isn't sold out, it will also direct customers to other ticket-sellers, like Brown Paper Tickets, Eventbrite, or AXS, but not always.

It doesn't have a relationship with Ticketmaster, the leader in direct ticket sales, so for those shows, it either doesn't let you know primary tickets are still avail-

able, or it will say "refer to venue website" without providing a link. That could be a problem because resold tickets usually cost more than ones you can get from the box office.

Ray Elias, StubHub's general manager of social commerce, said the goal of the app is to help users find shows, buy tickets and share with their friends, even if StubHub is not the one selling the tickets in the end. The aim is to build a relationship with music fans in part because StubHub has been known primarily for resales of tickets to sporting events.

"If they're engaging with StubHub more often, they'll buy more from StubHub," he said.

For more popular shows, early tickets sell out quickly after going on sale, and StubHub does 40 percent of its business within three days of an event starting. That increases the likelihood an app user would buy from StubHub anyway, particularly because the user can get notified of events shortly before they occur.

The lack of a link to Ticketmaster events can create some hassles. The Associ-



This product image provided by StubHub shows the company's StubHub Music app.

Associated Press

ated Press got to try out the pre-release version of the app. For a Lily Allen show at the Hollywood Palladium, for example, the app showed that tickets were available at StubHub for \$58 and up.

However, a look at the app of Ticketmaster parent Live Nation Entertainment Inc. showed primary tickets were still available for \$48.35 each, including fees, alongside resale tickets going for \$56.10 and up. □

Xiaomi beats Samsung in Chinese smartphone market

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Xiaomi, a Chinese handset maker little known in the West, overtook tech giant Samsung Electronics Co. to become China's top-selling smartphone brand in the second quarter, a market research company said Tuesday.

According to Canalys, Xiaomi sold 15 million smartphones in China during the second quarter, more than a three-fold surge from a year earlier. It surpassed Samsung, which had the leading position in China for more than two years, as well as local brands such as Lenovo and Huawei.

During the April-June period, Samsung's China smartphone sales de-

creased to 13.2 million units from 15.5 million a year earlier. Lenovo trailed Samsung by a margin of 2 million units.

Xiaomi is little known in Europe or in North America because it sells nearly all of its smartphones in mainland China. But strong growth in China alone was enough to vault Xiaomi to a top five position among the world's smartphone makers from nowhere the previous year.

Last week, another market research firm Strategy Analytics said Xiaomi became the world's fifth-largest smartphone vendor for the first time in the second quarter, surpassing LG Electronics Inc.

Canalys said China was the world's largest smartphone

market during the second quarter, with nearly four in every 10 smartphones sold there.

Jingwen Wang, an analyst at Canalys, said Xiaomi's rise was thanks to its competitive prices and focus on its own mobile software known as MIUI.

Samsung reported last week its lowest quarterly profit in two years for the second quarter, partly blaming a slowdown of cheap smartphone sales in China. Samsung said it faced higher competition from local brands and weaker demand for its 3G handsets as Chinese consumers shifted to 4G smartphones.

Samsung and Apple Inc. were the only non-Chinese vendors among the top



A man walks by an advertisement of Samsung Electronics' Galaxy S5 smartphone at the company's showroom in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 31, 2014.

Associated Press

10 smartphone brands in China. Apple sold 6.8 million iPhones in the second

quarter, up 58 percent from over a year earlier, Canalys said. □



In this July 17, 2014 photo, Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman of News Corporation, listens to a question during a panel discussion at the B20 meeting of company CEOs in Sydney, Australia. Associated Press

21st Century Fox abandons pursuit of Time Warner

NEW YORK (AP) — Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox is abandoning its attempt to take over Time Warner in a proposed deal that would have combined two of the world's biggest media companies. The about-face announced Tuesday comes three weeks after Time Warner Inc. revealed that it had rejected 21st Century Fox's unsolicited \$76 billion buyout offer. There had been hopes that 21st Century Fox, which owns the 20th Century Fox movie studio, Fox broadcast network, and TV channels Fox News and FX, might raise its original cash-and-stock offer bid of roughly \$86 per share to as much as \$100 per share to win over Time Warner. Even with 21st Century Fox now out of the picture, Time Warner's shares still remain above where they were before the news of buyout offer came out. New York-based Time Warner, which owns the Warner Bros. movie studio and TV channels such as TNT, TBS and HBO, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment about 21st Century Fox's decision. Many analysts had expected Murdoch to continue stalking Time Warner after the initial cold shoulder, reasoning the billionaire viewed a takeover as a prime opportunity to cre-

ate a movie and television powerhouse that would be in a better bargaining position to sell its video content at a time when video distributors are muscling up too. Comcast Corp., the largest cable and high-speed Internet provider, is trying to win approval to buy rival Time Warner Cable while AT&T Corp. is trying to gobble up satellite TV service DirecTV. As in the case with those proposed deals, 21st Century Fox would have had to navigate potentially daunting antitrust hurdles to buy Time Warner. Cultural clashes also loomed had the two companies combined, a factor that turned Time Warner's merger with AOL Inc. in 2001 into a monumental flop. Time Warner and AOL eventually split, but not before costing their shareholders tens of billions of dollars. With the proposed Time Warner deal off the table, 21st Century Fox's board approved a plan to spend \$6 billion on buying back stock. Murdoch cited a decline in the New York company's stock price since the takeover bid was announced as one of the reasons for the change of heart. Fox's shares have dropped 11 percent. They rose \$2.50, or 8 percent, to \$33.80 in after-hours trading Tuesday. □



This July 14, 2010, file photo, shows Gannett headquarters in McLean, Va. Associated Press

Gannett splits publishing, broadcasting in two

**MAE ANDERSON
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writers**

USA Today owner Gannett is splitting into two companies, making it the latest major media company to spin off a less profitable print business to focus on growing TV and digital operations. Gannett also announced Tuesday that it will take full ownership of Cars.com for \$1.8 billion. Gannett's spinoff follows similar maneuvers by major operators such as Time Warner Inc. and News Corp. Earlier this week, the Tribune Co. completed a split with its division that publishes The Los Angeles Times and other newspapers. The spinoff trend takes place amid a backdrop of declining newspaper revenue. As consumer tastes for digital content grow, advertisers continue to shift more of their spending online. In 2013, print advertising revenue at U.S. newspapers fell 8.6% to \$17.3 billion. Gannett's publishing arm will retain the Gannett name and include USA Today, 81 local U.S. daily publications and Newsquest, a regional community news provider in the U.K. The company touted the publishing unit as a debt-free company and said

both entities will have "increased opportunities to grow organically across all businesses," as well as pursue strategic acquisitions. CEO Gracia Martore said the "bold actions" will help increase value for shareholders "in today's increasingly digital landscape." Edward Atorino, an analyst with Benchmark Co., said the newspaper unit was "holding back the Gannett stock." But many other analysts say the recent rush to spin off print assets paints a dark picture for newspapers. "Now these stand-alone print companies won't have the profits to depend on from the broadcast companies," said Ken Doctor, a media analyst for consulting company Outsell. "For them, it's life without a parachute. They have to figure out how to make it completely on their own. None of the spinoff print companies have very much debt, which is a positive, but they don't have any source of strong revenue growth either," Doctor added. "Their only route is to continue to manage decline at the same time they're trying to find growth," he said. Gannett acquired Belo Corp. last year for about \$1.5 billion, nearly doubling

the number of TV stations it controls. The deal raised talk of a split almost immediately as the broadcast division's dominance grew over the publishing wing. Gannett's broadcasting and digital arm, which has yet to be named, will operate the company's 46 television stations and websites such as CareerBuilder. It will also include Cars.com. Both companies will remain headquartered in McLean, Virginia. The broadcasting and digital company will trade on the New York Stock Exchange. The publishing business is also expected to trade on the NYSE. Gracia Martore will serve as CEO of the broadcasting and digital company. Robert J. Dickey, currently president of Gannett's U.S. Community Publishing division, will become CEO of the publishing company. If approved by the company's board, Gannett anticipates that the distribution of the new publishing business' shares will be completed by the middle of 2015. Gannett is buying the 73 percent interest in Classified Ventures LLC, owner of Cars.com that it doesn't already own. Cars.com lets people compare vehicles online and connects them with sellers and dealers. □

S&P: Wealth gap is slowing U.S. economic growth

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Economists have long argued that a rising wealth gap has complicated the U.S. rebound from the Great Recession.

Now, an analysis by the rating agency Standard & Poor's lends its weight to the argument: The widening gap between the wealthiest Americans and everyone else has made the economy more prone to boom-bust cycles and slowed the 5-year-old recovery from the recession.

Economic disparities appear to be reaching extremes that "need to be watched because they're damaging to growth," said Beth Ann Bovino, chief U.S. economist at S&P.

The rising concentration of income among the top 1 percent of earners has contributed to S&P's cutting its growth estimates for the economy. In part because of the disparity, it estimates that the economy will grow at a 2.5 percent annual pace in the next decade, down from a forecast five years ago of a 2.8 percent rate.

The S&P report advises



In this March 29, 2013, file photo, a homeless man pushes a shopping cart full of his belongings across an intersection in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles.
Associated Press

against using the tax code to try to narrow the gap. Instead, it suggests that greater access to education would help ease wealth disparities.

Part of the problem is that educational achievement has stalled in recent decades. More schooling usually translates into higher wages. S&P estimates that the U.S. economy would grow annually by an additional half a percentage point — or \$105 billion —

over the next five years, if the average the American worker had completed just one more year of school. By contrast, S&P concludes, heavy taxes that would be meant to reduce inequality could remove incentives for people to work and cause businesses to hire fewer employees because of the costs involved.

The report builds on data from the Congressional Budget Office, the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund and academic economists to explain how income disparities can hurt growth. Many consumers tend to become more dependent on debt to continue spending, thereby worsening the boom-bust cycle. Or they curb their spending, and growth improves only modestly, as it has during the current recovery. Tax data tracked as part of the World Top Incomes Database project reveal just

how much the economic chasm has expanded.

An American in the top 1 percent of earners had an average income of \$1.3 million in 2012, the most recent year for which data are available. Average income jumps to \$30.8 million for the top 0.01 percent.

Adjusted for inflation, the top 0.01 percent's average earnings have jumped by a factor of seven since 1913. For the bottom 90 percent of Americans, average incomes after inflation have grown by a factor of just three since 1917 and have declined for the past 13 years.

Yet not all economists agree on how much, or even whether, the wealth gap slows growth.

Harvard University economist Greg Mankiw wrote in a 2013 paper that "the evidence is that most of the very wealthy get that way by making substantial economic contributions, not by gaming the system."

But S&P challenges the notion that a rising tide automatically will lift all boats: "A lifeboat carrying a few, surrounded by many treading water, risks capsizing," it argues. □

U.S. stocks sink on renewed Russia-Ukraine tensions

BY KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Renewed concerns that tensions could flare up between Russian and Ukraine pushed U.S. stocks sharply lower Tuesday.

The market had been moderately lower all day, weighed down by a disappointing earnings forecast from retail giant Target and a report on China that showed the world's second-largest economy was slowing down.

The selling accelerated in afternoon trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 200 points at one point, but recovered some of those losses in the last 30 minutes of trading. Several traders pointed to news reports of a buildup in Russian troops on the

Ukraine border and comments from a Polish politician that reportedly said Russia was poised to invade or pressure Ukraine's eastern border as catalysts for the selling. The developments came after the most recent round of sanctions were imposed on Russia by the U.S. and Europe last week. Russia called Tuesday for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the situation in Ukraine. The Ukraine-Russia tensions were "outweighing any good economic data" that investors had to work with Tuesday, said Tom di Galoma, a bond trader at ED&F Mann Capital. The Dow lost 139.81 points, or 0.8 percent, to 16,429.47, the lowest level for the index since mid-May. The Standard &

Poor's 500 index lost 18.78 points, or 1 percent, to 1,920.21 and the Nasdaq composite fell 31.05 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,352.84. The tensions between Russia and Ukraine have been a headache for investors for months now. However the stakes are higher than before, investors say. Tuesday's losses add to what has been a tough couple of weeks for U.S. markets. The S&P 500 fell 2.7 percent last week, its worst five-day performance since June 2012. While the market did recover some Monday, Tuesday's losses wiped out those gains, leaving the Dow and S&P 500 lower for the week. International events have been in the forefront of investors' minds for the last two weeks, and have

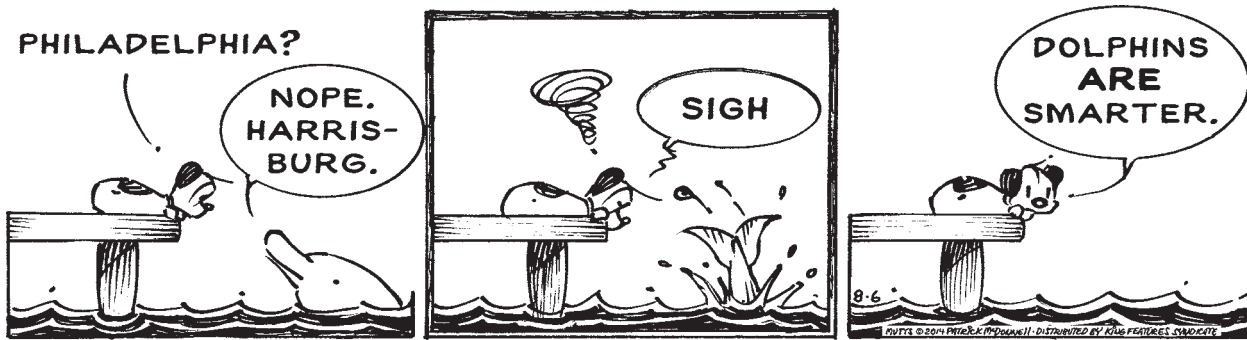


Specialist Christopher Culhane is framed by monitors at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014.
Associated Press

been a major reason stocks have fallen. There was the near-failure of a Portuguese bank, Argentina defaulting on its bonds, the Israeli-Gaza conflict on top of the tensions between the U.S., Europe and Russia over Ukraine. Strategists say investors are in a wait-and-see mode. "Once these geopolitical issues calm down, we should move higher from here," Frederick said. One

sign of investor nervousness can be seen in the VIX, a financial instrument that gauges how much stock market volatility investors expect in the future. The VIX jumped 10 percent to 16.71 on Tuesday. The index is trading at levels not seen since April and was as low as 11 just two weeks ago. The higher the index goes, the more turbulence investors expect to see in the future. □

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Missing from New Zealand's ski slopes? Snow

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) —

Winter has rolled into its third month in New Zealand, and Nick Jarman says he's going stir crazy as he stares out at the driving rain on the small ski area he manages in the Southern Alps. The Craigieburn Valley Ski Area is one of several areas that haven't opened for a single day this season, and some fear there may not be enough snow to open at all this year — something Jarman says has never happened during his 30 years carving turns on the mountain's slopes.

Ski operators throughout New Zealand are feeling the effects of the country's warmest start to the Southern Hemisphere winter since record-keeping began in 1909. And while one bad season doesn't prove a trend, it comes at a time when scientists say the country's snow pack and glaciers are melting at an alarming rate due to climate change.

The country's largest ski areas have managed to open only because they've invested in equipment to make their own snow, which they've been doing this year in unprecedented quantities. For now, at least, that's helped protect the nation's reputation as a winter play land, one that each year attracts more than 60,000 skiers and snowboarders from Australia alone from June to August when it is winter south of the equator.

At Queenstown's Coronet Peak, 200 snow guns have been blazing day



In this Thursday, July 31, 2014 photo, skiers and snowboarders enjoy clear skies at The Remarkables ski area near Queenstown, New Zealand.

Associated Press

and night whenever the temperature dips a little below freezing. Those guns have turned enough water to fill 100 Olympic-size swimming pools into a white blanket that's remained on the main trails even on days when some skiers have taken to wearing t-shirts.

But New Zealand also has a tradition of small ski areas that rely entirely on natural snow, and many are facing steep financial losses this year. Typically, the areas are run as nonprofits. They are kept open not only by tourist dollars but also from the work of enthusiastic volunteers. Operators of these areas say they can't afford to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in snow-making equipment.

Jarman says Craigieburn employs about 10 staff

but can only pay them once the area opens. He says it's not just the ski areas that are suffering, but also the local ski rental stores, the gas stations, even the bakeries. He says he's been refunding money to tourists who have booked ski and accommodation packages, and the season is putting a strain on Craigieburn's finances. "It's going to be hard, really hard. We don't have the extra money to spend on maintenance," he says. "We're not living on caviar and salmon."

It's a similar story at Mount Cheeseman Ski Area, which employs about 20 staff when there is snow, but which also hasn't been able to open. Mountain manager Cam Lill says some of his staff, who come from abroad, are taking the opportunity to tour the country while others are earning money doing odd jobs. "They're sitting around, waiting in anticipation," he says. "It's a very messy time. You can't give them any degree of certainty."

A paper published by New Zealand scientists in July in the journal *Global and Planetary Change* concludes that two of the country's largest glaciers,

the Franz Josef and the Fox, have each melted by 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) in length since the 1800s, making them about 20 percent shorter.

The authors say the length of both glaciers has fluctuated over the years, but that "the overall reduction in length is a clear sign of twentieth century warming." They say both glaciers this year are melting at a faster rate than ever previously recorded. A 2012 study in the same journal used aerial images to estimate the total volume of ice in the Southern Alps declined by 15 percent from 1976 to 2008. One of the authors, glaciologist Trevor Chinn, wrote in a recent article, which wasn't peer reviewed, that as much as one third of the ice in the mountains has melted since 1977.

"It's quite alarming the amount we are losing," Chinn said in an interview. "And certainly the scenery is changing." Ski area operators, however, point to the big variations in temperature and snowfall that can occur from season to season. While June of this year brought record high temperatures, the same month last year brought

a healthy dump of snow that set up most operators for a good season.

Paul Anderson, the chief executive of NZSki, which operates three of the country's largest areas — Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, and Mount Hutt — says he expects the three areas combined this season will attract a similar number of skiers to the 480,000 that visited last year. "From the work that I've seen, we are in a sustainable business," he says, adding that's whether the snowfall comes naturally or is supplemented by machines. However Heather Purdie, a University of Canterbury glaciologist and lead author on the glacier study, says that while ski areas will continue to have good seasons and bad ones, they are likely to find it a tougher business as the climate warms. She says it will become increasingly difficult for them to make even man-made snow as the number of hours and days below freezing reduces. And even though many skiers and snowboarders have been kept satisfied by the man-made snow on larger areas like Mount Hutt this year, there has been scant coverage away from the main trails. That forced Michael Bushell this month to cancel a ski racing event he'd planned, even before wild winds closed the mountain. Bushell said there simply wasn't the required 30 centimeters (1 foot) of snow off-trail to anchor the ski gates, and racers couldn't use the main runs without getting in the way of recreational skiers. At Craigieburn, meanwhile, Jarman remains hopeful, an attitude reflected in a post on the ski area's website: "We are, however, only one good storm away from opening and coverage up high is good," it reads, "so keep dancing/praying/sacrificing to the snow gods or whatever works." □



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A digital and divisive redesign of 'Ninja Turtles'

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Over the past two years, inside the high-tech sanctuary of Industrial Light and Magic, the man who built a virtual virgin jungle for the last "Indiana Jones" movie and conjured 150-foot-tall aliens for "War of the Worlds" has been confronting his most difficult task yet: creating a digital version of the beloved Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that could realistically interact on screen with Megan Fox.

On this assignment, Pablo Helman needed more than just turtle power.

"For me, in the 19 years that I've been at ILM, this is one of the most challenging projects I've worked on," the visual effects supervisor said in a recent interview at his office. "Technologically, it's very difficult to capture someone's performance, put it on a character and make it believable. In this case, we had to design a way to combine performances that were taken at many different times."

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the live-action reimagining of the 30-year-old comic book franchise in theaters Friday, features a completely computerized version of the four sewer-dwelling superheroes, a take more akin to Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" films or Caesar from the recent "Planet of the Apes" movies than the rubbery renditions from the 1990s live-action "Turtles" films.

The revitalized reptiles were fashioned at ILM by blending computer-generated imagery with several motion-capture performances by four actors. It's a radical departure from the original '90s film trilogy, when Jim Henson's Creature Shop crafted puppet suits for actors playing the half-shell heroes.

For the reboot, the performers physically portraying each Ninja Turtle donned skintight grey getups and shell-shaped backpacks, while helmets equipped with cameras captured



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows director Jonathan Liebesman, foreground right, discussing a scene with actors portraying mutant ninja turtles, from left, Noel Fisher as Michelangelo, Pete Ploszek as Leonardo, Jeremy Howard as Donatello, and Alan Ritchson as Raphael during the filming of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

their facial expressions. The actors' bodies were replaced on screen by their counterparts — massive talking turtles who know kung fu — and their facial expressions were grafted onto the Ninja Turtles' green noggins.

Despite the effort to construct Ninja Turtles for the digital age, die-hard fans didn't initially deem the makeover of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello totally tubular. Instead, many were shell-shocked to see in early teasers and trailers that the filmmakers added nostrils and lips to the turtles' faces, a different anatomy than the one from the previous comics, cartoons, toys and films.

"This whole gritty, doofy, straight-out-of-'Avatar' look is not working for the iconic cartoon turtles," Jason Schreier wrote on the blog Kotaku last May. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has never exactly been cool — Leonardo and crew were always dorky and cheesy in a loveable sort of way — but they have never had ridiculous zombie nostrils and gaping mouths like this before. It sure looks dumb."

Helman defends the humanlike faces because it allows the computer-generated characters, who he said are onscreen for about two-thirds of the

movie, to be more expressive.

"You're never going to please everybody because what you're fighting is that magical moment when, in this case, someone first discovered the Ninja Turtles," said the Academy Award-nominated visual effects guru. "It's not possible to convince someone that these are

Associated Press
the Ninja Turtles they fell in love with 30 years ago. The idea is that you have to take the original intent and make it your own."

"Ninja Turtles" director Jonathan Liebesman noted that producer Michael Bay, the man responsible for bringing "Transformers" to life, originally laid out three commandments for the overhaul of the Ninja

Turtles: they should be charming, intimidating and individually recognizable — not just to kids but also their mothers. Liebesman believes the filmmakers accomplished their mission.

"I feel like once people see the movie, they will understand why we made these decisions," said the "Wrath of the Titans" and "Battle: Los Angeles" director. "We're trying to make them more lifelike and realistic. I don't think it sacrifices anything fans love, once they go and see the movie. I think hating on design is just a part of fandom, which is fine. There's a lot of value to what fans have to say."

It's not the first backlash that Bay and the team at his Platinum Dunes production company, which is producing "Ninja Turtles," have experienced. When the filmmaker originally unveiled his computer-generated interpretation of the Transformers, hardcore fans were enraged that Bay added flames to Optimus Prime's paint job. The film franchise went on to make more than \$3.5 billion. □

Wesley Snipes: 'You can't take life too seriously'

LOUISE DIXON

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. action star Wesley Snipes is back on the big screen for the first time since his release from prison as he joins Sylvester Stallone and the cast of "The Expendables 3."

Speaking ahead of the movie's world premiere Monday, Snipes joked that Stallone had him in mind for the first "Expendables" movie but he was "just a little occupied at the time." "They reserved a spot for me and when the opportunity came along he reached out again and said come join us, we would like you to be a part of this."

Snipes was sentenced to three years in prison in 2008 after failing to file income

tax returns. He began his jail term in December 2010. The movie makes reference to Snipes' time behind bars with a tax-evasion joke in the opening scenes.

"Whether I do something really funny or really stupid, it is okay with me," says Snipes. "I think that is what life is about. You can't take life itself too seriously."

"At the end of the day, nobody really cares. You're going to be forgotten anyway. The issues and problems that you think are like mountains that you have to deal with now, after time goes by, nobody cares," he continues. "Might as well have a good time with it."

The 52-year-old actor is currently looking for new action projects, with a return



U.S. actor Wesley Snipes arrives for the World Premiere of The Expendables 3 at a central London cinema, Monday, Aug. 4, 2014.

Associated Press

to the blood-soaked universe of vampire "Blade" at the top of his list.

"A lot of people are calling for it and I would like to do it," he says. □



This May 14, 2014 file photo shows actress-comedian and co-host of "The View", Sherri Shepherd at "A Celebration of Barbara Walters" at The Four Seasons Restaurant in New York. Associated Press

Sherri Shepherd to make her Broadway debut

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A wicked stepmother has been picked for Cinderella on Broadway — Sherri Shepherd. "The View" co-host said on the daytime talk show Tuesday that she will make her Broadway debut in the musical opposite Keke Palmer in the title role on September 9 at the Broadway Theatre. Shepherd will end seven years on "The View" this Friday.

She has been on "Dancing with the Stars" and "30 Rock" as Tracy Morgan's wife, Angie Jordan. Her film credits include "Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire," "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" and "Guess Who." The traditional fairy tale has been given a sly and witty makeover by Douglas Carter Beane. The songs by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II include "In My Own Little Corner" and "Impossible/It's Possible." □

The Civil Wars duo announce breakup

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — The members of folk duo The Civil Wars have made it official: They're breaking up. Joy Williams and John Paul White issued a statement on their website Tuesday morning announcing the decision, which comes nearly two years after the duo pulled out of a world tour over irreconcilable differences. The duo met on a song-

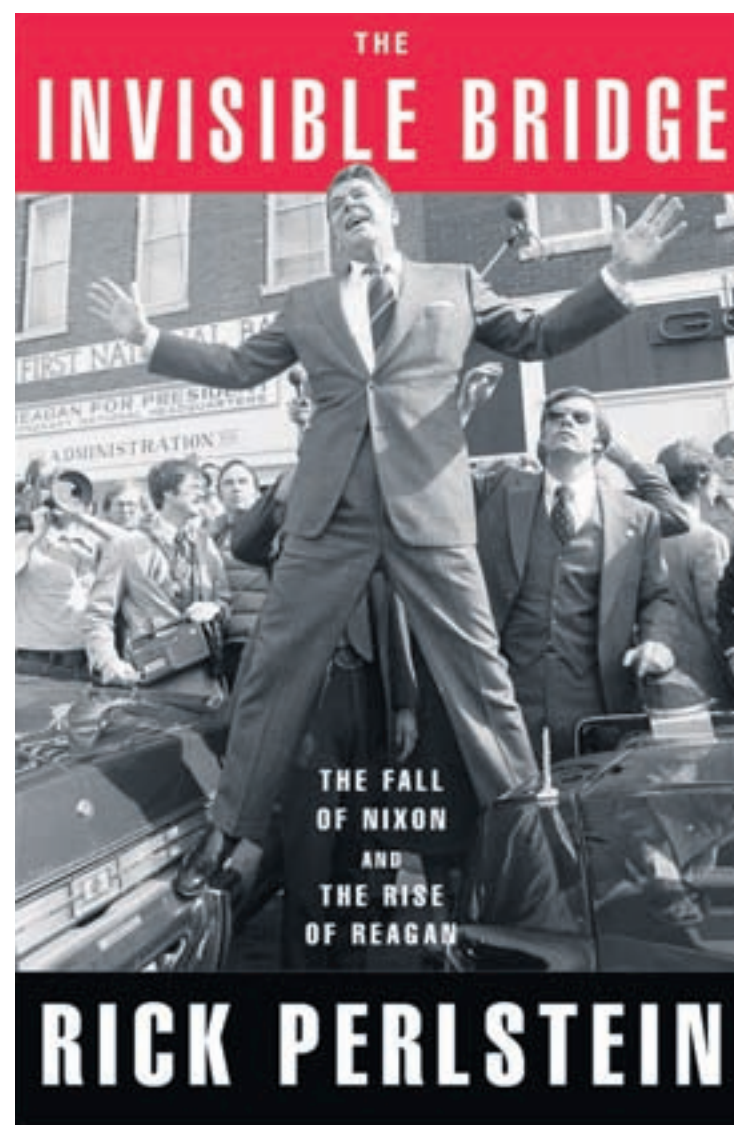
writing project and had instant chemistry as songwriters and performers. Championed by many fellow musicians like Taylor Swift, their first album went gold and they won four Grammy Awards before personal differences ended their partnership. They released a second album, but did not tour in support of it. Each thanked their fans in the statement and issued a free download of "You Are My Sunshine." □

Book tracks insurgence that propelled Reagan

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

"The Invisible Bridge: The Fall of Nixon and the Rise of Reagan" (Simon & Schuster), by Rick Perlstein. Even Republicans piled on President Richard Nixon as the Watergate scandal wore on. But not California Gov. Ronald Reagan. He said Watergate was being "blown out of proportion" and was "none of my business." Rick Perlstein writes that incredulous reporters thought Reagan was acting like a "genial ostrich" ignoring the looming reckoning for American government. Ostrich or no, Reagan's point of view resonated with people — or at least some people. "There were two tribes in America now," Perlstein writes early in the book. And Reagan spoke powerfully to one of those tribes: the ones who were organizing around grievances like forced busing, the ones who had the sense that the orderly America they loved was receding.

"The Invisible Bridge" is the story of "the right-wing insurgency bubbling barely beneath the surface" through the mid '70s. And it's the story of the national rise of the politician who benefited the most from that insurgency. Perlstein wrote about Sen. Barry Goldwater and the rise of modern American conservatism in "Before the Storm" and continued his political and cultural history with "Nixonland." This third book ends with Reagan's narrow loss to President Gerald Ford at the 1976 Republican convention, which served as a marker to how far the conservative movement had come in a generation. To call this book rich in anecdotes is an understatement. Perlstein adopts a you-are-there narrative that gives the reader a sense of what average Americans took in during the turbulent period from



This book cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "The Invisible Bridge: The Fall of Nixon and the Rise of Reagan," by Rick Perlstein.

Associated Press

Watergate to the 1976 elections. Readers learn about Nixon and Reagan, sure, but also about the only-in-the-'70s phenomena like EST workshops, in which people paid \$250 to have insults screamed at them. The account of John Dean's televised Watergate testimony includes both blow-by-blow details and a snippet from the commercial aired during the hearing for Final Net ("So you finally got little Jamie married!"). Reagan fans looking for a heroic tale will be disappointed. Perlstein's default mode is irreverence, and his Reagan is a storyteller who does not let the messy complexity of reality get in the way of simple answers. He calls the future president an "athlete of denial." Democrat Jimmy Carter fares no better here. Perlstein portrays

him as an opportunistic candidate happy to tell people what they want to hear. At more than 800 pages, the narrative bogs down during the Watergate hearings and in some other places. But the mini-biography of Reagan nestled in the pages is a page turner, as is Perlstein's climactic account of the nail-biter presidential nominating convention in 1976. Ford won the nomination but Reagan won the hearts of many Republicans who wondered if they had just launched the wrong candidate into the general election. Even Reagan couldn't please everyone, though. Perlstein writes that Goldwater, Mr. Conservative himself, complained that Reagan had become "one of those people, the really ideological ones who won't change." □

Go Take a Hike!



Nicholas Kristof

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PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, Ore. - Escaping a grim world of war abroad and inequality at home, I fled with my teenage daughter here to the mountains of Oregon to hike the Pacific Crest Trail and commune with more humane creatures. Like bears and cougars.

The wilderness is healing, a therapy for the soul. We hiked 145 miles, and it was typical backpacking bliss: We were chewed on by mosquitoes, rained on and thundered at, broiled by noon-day sun, mocked by a 20-mile stretch of dry trail, and left limping from blisters. The perfect trip! There are very few things I've done just twice in my life, 40 years apart, and one is to backpack on the Pacific Crest Trail across the California/Oregon border. The first time, in 1974, I was a 15-year-old setting off with a pal on a bid to hike across Oregon. We ran into vast snows that covered the trail and gave up. Then I wasn't quite ripe for the challenge; this year, on the trail with my daughter, I wondered if I might be overripe.

Yet seeing the same mountains, the same creeks, four decades later, was a reminder of how the world changes, and how it doesn't.

As a teenager, I lugged a huge metal-frame pack, navigated by uncertain maps and almost never encountered another hiker. Now, gear is far lighter, we navigate partly by iPhone, and there are streams of hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Indeed, partly because of Cheryl Strayed's best-seller "Wild," about how a lost young woman found herself on a long-distance hike on the Pacific Crest Trail, the number of long-distance backpackers has multiplied on the trail. There has been a particular surge in women.

We also saw many retirees, including some men and women in their 60s and 70s undertaking an entire "through-hike" from Mexico all the way to Canada, 2,650 miles in one season.

"There seems to be a more than 30 percent increase in long-distance hiking in 2014 over 2013," based on the number of hiking permits issued, said Jack Haskel of the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

My hunch is that the trail will grow even more crowded next year, after the movie version of "Wild" hits the big screen with Reese Witherspoon in the starring role. Unfortunately, America has trouble repairing its magnificent trails, so that collapsed bridges and washed-out sections are sometimes left unrepaired. We were rich enough to construct many of these trails during the Great Depression, yet we're apparently too poor in the 21st century even to sustain them.

The attraction of wilderness has something to do with continuity. I may now have a GPS device that I couldn't have imagined when I first hiked, but essential patterns on the trail are unchanging: the exhaustion, the mosquitoes, the blisters, and also the exhilaration at reaching a mountain pass, the lustrous reds and blues of alpine wildflowers, the deliciousness of a snow cone made on a sweltering day from a permanent snowfield and Kool-Aid mix.

The trails are a reminder of our insignificance. We come and go, but nature is forever. It puts us in our place, underscoring that we are not lords of the universe but components of it.

In an age of tremendous inequality, our wild places also offer a rare leveling. There are often no fees to hike or to camp on these trails, and tycoons and taxi drivers alike drink creek water and sleep under the stars on a \$5 plastic sheet. On our national lands, any of us can enjoy billion-dollar views that no billionaire may buy.

Humans pull together in an odd way when they're in the wilderness. It's astonishing how few people litter, and how much they help one another. Indeed, the smartphone app to navigate the Pacific Crest Trail, Half-mile, is a labor of love by hikers who make it available as a free download. And, in thousands of miles of backpacking over the decades, I don't know that I've ever heard one hiker be rude to another.

We've also seen the rise of "trail angels," who leave bottles of water, chocolate bars or even freshly baked bread for hungry or thirsty hikers to enjoy in remote areas.

On one dry stretch of trail on our latest hike, where it wound near a forest service road, we encountered this "trail magic": Someone had brought a lawn chair and two coolers of soft drinks to cheer flagging backpackers. Purists object to trail magic, saying that it interferes with the wilderness experience. But when the arguments are about how best to be helpful, my faith in humanity is restored!

So when the world seems to be falling apart, when we humans seem to be creating messes everywhere we turn, maybe it's time to rejuvenate in the cathedral of the wilderness - and there, away from humanity, rediscover our own humanity. □



Obama's Impeachment



Ross Douthat

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Something rather dangerous is happening in American politics right now, all the more so for being taken for granted by many of the people watching it unfold.

I do not mean the confusion of House Republicans, or the general gridlock in Congress, which are impeding legislative action on the child migrant crisis (among other matters). Incompetence and gridlock are significant problems, indeed severe ones, but they're happening within the context of a constitutional system that allows for - and can survive - congressional inaction. What is different - more cynical and more destructive - is the course President Barack Obama is pursuing in response.

Over the last month, the Obama political apparatus - a close aide to the president, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the "independent" voices at MSNBC - has been talking nonstop about an alleged Republican plan to impeach the president. John Boehner's symbolic lawsuit against the White House has been dubbed "impeachment lite," Sarah Palin's pleas for attention have been creatively reinterpreted as GOP marching orders, and an entire apocalyptic fundraising campaign has been built around the specter of a House impeachment vote.

Anyone paying attention knows that no such impeachment plan is currently afoot. So taken on its own, the impeachment chatter would simply be an unseemly, un-presidential attempt to raise

money and get out the 2014 vote.

But it isn't happening in a vacuum, because even as his team plays the impeachment card with gusto, the president is contemplating - indeed, all but promising - an extraordinary abuse of office: the granting of temporary legal status, by executive fiat, to up to half the country's population of illegal immigrants.

Such an action would come equipped with legal justifications, of course. Past presidents have suspended immigration enforcement for select groups, and Obama himself did the same for certain younger immigrants in 2012. A creative White House lawyer - a John Yoo of the left - could rely on those precedents to build a case for the legality of a more sweeping move.

But the precedents would not actually justify the policy, because the scope would be radically different. Beyond a certain point, as the president himself has conceded in the past, selective enforcement of our laws amounts to a de facto repeal of their provisions. And in this case the de facto repeal would aim to effectively settle - not shift, but settle - a major domestic policy controversy on the terms favored by the White House.

This simply does not happen in our politics. Presidents are granted broad powers over foreign policy, and they tend to push the envelope substantially in wartime. But domestic power grabs are usually modest in scope, and executive orders usually work around the margins of hotly contested issues.

In defense of going much, much further, the White House would doubtless cite the need to address the current migrant surge, the House Republicans' resistance to comprehensive immigration reform and public opinion's inclination in its favor.

But all three points are spurious. A further amnesty would, if anything, probably incentivize further migration, just as Obama's previous grant of legal status may well have done. The public's views

on immigration are vaguely pro-legalization - but they're also malleable, complicated and, amid the border crisis, trending rightward. And in any case we are a republic of laws, in which a House majority that defies public opinion is supposed to be turned out of office, not simply overruled by the executive.

What's more, given that the Democrats controlled Congress just four years ago and conspicuously failed to pass immigration reform, it's especially hard to see how Republican intransigence now somehow justifies domestic Caesarism.

But in political terms, there is a sordid sort of genius to the Obama strategy. The threat of a unilateral amnesty contributes to internal GOP chaos on immigration strategy, chaos which can then be invoked (as the president did in a Friday news conference) to justify unilateral action. The impeachment predictions, meanwhile, help box Republicans in: If they howl - justifiably! - at executive overreach, the White House gets to say "look at the crazies - we told you they were out for blood." It's only genius, however, if the nonconservative media - honorable liberals and evenhanded moderates alike - continue to accept the claim that immigration reform by fiat would just be politics as usual, and to analyze the idea strictly in terms of its political effects (on Latino turnout, Democratic fundraising, GOP internal strife).

This is the tone of the media coverage right now: The president may get the occasional rebuke for impeachment-baiting, but what the White House wants to do on immigration is assumed to be reasonable, legitimate, within normal political bounds. It is not: It would be lawless, reckless, a leap into the anti-democratic dark.

And an American political class that lets this Rubicon be crossed without demurral will deserve to live with the consequences for the republic, in what remains of this presidency and in presidencies yet to come. □

Updated dinosaurs stalk America in arena show

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What does a man who spends his work days creating animatronic dinosaurs do on his day off? If you're Sonny Tilders, you go see the real thing in person.

Tilders, the creative director of The Creature Technology Co., couldn't resist recently stopping by the American Museum of Natural History while in New York to see some genuine fossils up close.

"I wanted them to move. Just one of them," Tilders says, laughing.

In his day job, they do: Tilders is the driving force behind the "Walking with Dinosaurs, the Arena Spectacular," which has returned for a North American tour with 20 updated lifelike dinosaurs, including many sporting feathers, the ability to reach up and eat leaves, and three new babies.

The show, based on an award-winning BBC Television series, travels 200 million years from Triassic to the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, and features 10 species of dinosaur. It is produced by



This image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows three lifelike dinosaurs, part of the "Walking with Dinosaurs, the Arena Spectacular," in New York. **Associated Press**

tember, it lumbers toward the California cities of Anaheim and Los Angeles and other stops are planned throughout the West and Midwest.

"There's real drama in what we've made," says Scott Faris, the director, whose work is backed by an 80-piece orchestra score. "Not only have we built dinosaurs to scale, we've also built a climax at the end of the first act

dinosaurs are the size of a small dog and are radio controlled.

"While it's wonderful to see

Henson, has worked on such films as "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," "Ghost Rider"



This image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows a lifelike dinosaur, part of the "Walking with Dinosaurs, the Arena Spectacular," in New York. **Associated Press**



This July 15, 2014 photo shows Sonny Tilders, the creative director of The Creature Technology Company, at the Barclay's Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York. **Associated Press**

Global Creatures, the Australian company behind the new musical "King Kong," the Tony Award-winning "War Horse" and "How To Train Your Dragon."

"Walking with Dinosaurs" is in Pittsburgh this weekend and next goes to Auburn Hills in Michigan before Canadian stops scheduled in Montreal and Ottawa for the rest of August. In Sep-

tember, it lumbers toward the California cities of Anaheim and Los Angeles and other stops are planned throughout the West and Midwest. "There's real drama in what we've made," says Scott Faris, the director, whose work is backed by an 80-piece orchestra score. "Not only have we built dinosaurs to scale, we've also built a climax at the end of the first act

all these great shows on TV that use computer-generated imagery to create another world, I think they kind of miss something," says Tilders, a dinosaur fan as a kid.

"What's really nice about doing it live onstage is the greater sense of awe and wonder when you see something — albeit made of fabric and steel — that convinces you that it's alive."

Tilders, who trained under famed puppeteer Jim

and "The Chronicles of Narnia." He knew when he first started making dinosaurs that the effort would hinge on one key element. "We knew that if we couldn't solve the skin, we would struggle to solve the whole creature," he says. The result is a lightweight Spandex-type fabric that's durable. The exact ingredients are a trade secret. "It has this thing that I can't tell you about. I'd have to kill you and your family," he jokes.

The dinosaurs also feature muscle bags that stretch and contract under the skin. "A bit like our own muscles change shape as we flex and extend them," says Tilders. They're filled with Styrofoam beans like you'd find in a bean bag. Other parts of the dinos are inflatable.

The Creature Technology Co. added feathers on many of the beasts after recent discoveries by paleontologists pointed to the possibility that a large number of non-avian dinosaurs had "dinofuzz" as part of their body covering. "We do have to wait until there's a certain level of conviction because it's a big investment," Tilders says. The dinosaurs are just part of what Tilders' company can do. He and his team created the giant robotic bear that blew out

the Olympic flame at Sochi, a giant talking Statue of Liberty puppet for Radio City Music Hall that will debut next year and a 21-foot King Kong with inflatable forearms and 45 axis of movement that is the centerpiece of a show itching to get to Broadway.

"We make this incredible, high-tech, bespoke creative technology and we think it's got outlets in more than just arena shows. It's an exciting period for us," Tilders said. □